After Basilan, US Special Forces headed for Sulu

STORY ON PAGE A2

Coup d'etat charge against Reyes junked

By Donna S. Cueto

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has dismissed a complaint for the crime of coup d'etat filed against top military officials led by Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes who played key roles in the ouster of then President Joseph Estrada last year.

The complaint, filed by Estrada

COUP D'ETAT/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Bunye new press secretary?

By Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG will shortly announce President Macapagal-Arroyo's selection of former Muntinlupa Rep. Ignacio Bunye

BUNYE/A4

BUNYE

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
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Kidnaps rising, say anti-crime groups

Report lists 104 victims, belies police statistics

By TJ Burgonio
and Nancy C. Carvajal

CONTRARY to official police records, kidnapping surged in the first six months, victimizing a total of 104 persons, an anti-crime watchdog group said yesterday.

Teresita Ang See, chair of the Citizen Action Against Crime (CAAC) and the Movement for Restoration of Peace and Order (MRPO), said police statistics understated the number of incidents and the number of victims by as much as half.

"Incidence of kidnapping is higher in the same period this year compared to last year," she said.

In Camp Crame, new Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane said he wanted to turn the entire PNP into one anti-kidnapping force. "There will be one anti-kidnap body. That's the Philippine National Police."

Ebdane made the remarks on the eve of the National Summit against Kidnapping, which meets today.

He will get an assist from the Armed Forces, after the President reassigned a key Philippine Air Force unit from the anti-coup Task Force Libra to the AFP's Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Aktaf).

Ebdane also won unconditional support from the President's new anti-crime consultant, Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, who told reporters yesterday: "We should not create a parallel organization or task forces. Every police officer should be held responsible and accountable. Me? I will work under him."

But the Ang See report obtained by the INQUIRER, complete with a list of the kidnap victims, comes at a time when the government is reviewing its

KIDNAPS/ A16

STILL FLOODED. Residents of Dalandan, Valenzuela, wade through knee-deep waters as rain continues to pour in Metro Manila for the third straight day on Monday, stalling traffic and prompting authorities to suspend classes and government work. DENNIS SABANGAN

Classes still suspended; death toll up

By Martin Marfil, Gerald Lacuarta,
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
and PDI Central Luzon Desk

THE DEATH toll from landslides, floods and big waves spawned by Typhoon "Gloria" (international code name: Chata'an) and a low-pressure area off Batanes rose to at least 17 yesterday.

At least 29 people were injured and three have been reported missing since Saturday, according to the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC). It said a total of 22,728 people were staying at 73 evacuation centers.

Monsoon winds and rains led to power outages in large sections of Metro Manila and at least seven towns in Laguna.

Many areas were flooded. At least 184 villages in six Central Luzon provinces were under 3 feet of water, affecting almost 140,000 people, the Department of Social Welfare and Development said.

Because of the floods, officials of Pampanga and Tarlac placed their provinces under a state of calamity.

Boats were used for transport in some areas of Metro Manila as many streets were flooded. Low-lying villages in five towns in Cotabato were also submerged.

For the second straight day, the Department of Education suspended classes for elementary and high school, both public and private, in Metro Manila today. Classes were also suspended yesterday in Tarlac, Olongapo City, Baguio City, Benguet, La Union and Pangasinan.

DENNIS SABANGAN

LORENCIANA Magalso, 79, and other evacuees wait inside a covered basketball court in Malanday, Marikina City, for floodwaters to subside along the banks of the Marikina River.

Landslides closed Kennon Road and Halsema Highway (Baguio-Bontoc Road) to traffic. The Concepcion-Magalang Road, the alternate route to Metro Manila from the North, was under water and was closed to all types of vehicles on Monday.

Not passable to light vehicles were the Tarlac-Sta. Rosa Road, which links the province to Nueva Ecija; the Paniqui-Camiling Road, which links northwestern and southwestern Tarlac; and, the Camiling-Mangatarem Road, which links the province to western Pangasinan.

Landslides were also reported in the western towns of San Jose, Camiling, Mayantoc and San Clemente, stranding motorists and commuters.

As of 2 p.m. yesterday, the eye of the typhoon was 1,150 km east northeast of Basco, Batanes. It was moving north-northwest at 19 kph and appeared headed for

CLASSES/ A14

14-10 vote in Senate for Gloria bloc seen

By Carlito Pablo,
Juliet L. Javellana
and Rocky Nazareno

NOT one but two opposition senators will break the impasse at the Senate in favor of the administration bloc led by Senate President Franklin Drilon when Congress opens on July 22, Malacañang sources said yesterday.

They said Sen. Blas Ople, to whom representatives of President Macapagal-Arroyo had been offering the top post of the Department of Foreign Affairs, would not be one of the tie-breakers but would later serve to peg the numbers at 14-9.

"Come July 22 when Congress opens, it will become 14-10 with two senators crossing to the administration side. The impasse is over save for the actual voting," said a highly placed source.

"They have realized that the gridlock in the Senate is not doing any good for the country and the image of the Senate as well," the source said of the two senators, whose names he requested withheld.

14-10/ A4

CBCP defines ideal leaders of barangays

By Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—Being bold and righteous are not enough.

Candidates in the barangay elections must also be admirable and group oriented, according to guidelines issued by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) for the July 15 barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

"If we want the best for our barangay, then we should vote only for a person whose characteristics reflect the ideals of 'Barangay,'" Cotabato Archbishop and CBCP president Orlando Quevedo said in a statement sent to all parish priests nationwide.

According to Quevedo, "Barangay" stands for bold in action, active in community life, righteous in his/her ways, admirable in character and personality, non-discriminate in community building efforts, group-oriented in decision, attentive to the needs of all, and yielding and docile to the ways of the Holy Spirit.

"If we cannot vote (for) the right person in the very community we belong to, then what are

CBCP/ A16

Iranian DI punished for dance classes

TEHRAN—A Tehran court has sentenced the country's best-known male dancer to a 10-year suspended jail term for promoting corruption among young people by setting up dance classes in the United States, his lawyer said Monday.

The sentence, handed down Sunday, bans

IRANIAN/ A15

Doctors claim HMOs put profits ahead of patients

By Jerry Esplanada

(First of three parts)

MERCHANTS OF HEALTH

An INQUIRER TEAM *Report*

IN 1965, the country's first health maintenance organization or HMO was founded. Today, some 30 HMOs employ thousands of physicians affiliated with hundreds of accredited hospitals to serve the needs of more than 3 million subscribers.

But many doctors prefer not to help spread the medical gospel according to HMOs, said Homobono Calleja, an eminent cardiologist and a four-term president of the Philippine Medical Association.

The numbers include more than 500 physicians in Western Visayas and parts of Southern Tagalog and Bicol who have been boycotting HMOs for nearly two years now—"a sign that all is not well in the HMO business," Calleja noted.

The Panay chapter of the Philippine College of Surgeons has simply refused to work with the HMOs. "We don't want to have anything to do with the merchants and brokers of the medical profession," its members said in a statement. They dismissed HMO advertising claims as "vague statements, just like most slogans."

"The Panay group, along with surgeons, gynecologists, anesthesiologists, pediatricians and other medical practitioners in the island-provinces of Guimaras, Romblon, Masbate and Palawan, have cut their ties with the HMOs," surgeons Eric Montero and Maximo Nadala of the Iloilo Doctors Hospital told the INQUIRER.

"Similar moves are being made in the cities of Bacolod, Cebu and Davao through PMA chapters and specialty organizations like the PCS, the Philippine Pediatrics Society and the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society," wrote Edgardo Clemente in "Mismanaged Care: The Philippine HMO Story."

Clemente is vice president for Luzon of both the PMA and the Philippine Hospital Association, and the spokesperson on HMO matters for both organizations.

Calleja lauded boycott participants, saying they were "doing the right thing."

"I hope their breed multiplies," says the Bicolano physician who is based at the St. Luke's Medical

DOCTORS/ A16

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2002

Second FRONT PAGE

After Basilan, US GIs go to Sulu

THE US military will conduct new exercises against Abu Sayyaf insurgents in Sulu province after they complete operations on Basilan island, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

About 1,000 US military personnel are winding up a six-month counterterrorism exercise that helped Filipino troops wage several bloody assaults against the Muslim extremists on Basilan.

The exercise has been dubbed Balikatan—"shoulder to shoulder"—by the local military and "Operation Enduring Freedom-Philippines" by the Americans as an extension of Washington's war on terrorism.

In a speech marking the 55th anniversary of the founding of the Philippine Air Force, Ms Macapagal indicated the new exercises would take place on Sulu, a violence-wracked island near Basilan that is also inhabited by the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf, as well as Moro separatist rebels and bandits.

"The coming Balikatans will have a Sulu component," Ms Macapagal said in a speech for the Air Force's 55th founding anniversary. She did not elaborate.

Government troops are fighting the Abu Sayyaf on Basilan, Sulu and the Zamboanga peninsula.

The President said the US exercises should eventually shift back to their regular venues in military camps in Luzon.

Military chief of staff Gen. Roy Cimatu said Friday local defense, military and diplomatic officials would hold talks with their US counterparts to finalize plans for the new exercises, likely to be held in October.

Cimatu said there were plans to hold the training in Luzon, at an air base in central Mactan island and in Zamboanga. He did not mention Sulu.

Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster, who heads US troops in the current exercise, said the local military "is still studying the security implications of holding the Balikatan in Sulu."

"It will be nice to know what we are going to expect in Sulu," Wurster told reporters at a Zamboanga military camp, where he attended graduation rites for 25 Filipino officers who completed a four-week counterterrorism course.

Security for the American military personnel has been a top US concern. US officials delayed a decision in the current exercise to bring American troops closer to the front lines because of concerns they could be exposed to more danger.

The Americans can fire only in self-defense.

Local officials are wary that any violation in that rule could further agitate an active left-wing minority that has vehemently opposed the US military presence in the former American colony.

About 380 US soldiers will stay behind to complete humanitarian projects when the current exercise ends July 31, Wurster said.

Eighty Marine engineers and US Navy engineers will continue working on Basilan, with the rest of the contingent to be based in nearby Zamboanga City to provide logistical and air support.

Last week, at least 80 of about 340 US Navy engineers involved in military infrastructure works were pulled out of Basilan after finishing their work, US officials said. They were sent back to their home base in Kadena, Japan, on Thursday. ***AP***

Pilots' safety main focus of new war drills

By Dona Pazzibugan

PHILIPPINE Air Force pilots would be the focus of the next Balikatan exercises this year, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced yesterday.

During the PAF's 55th anniversary celebrations yesterday, the President said that, on top of "a heavy dose" of training, a large part of the exercises would be devoted to pilot safety.

Ms Macapagal paid tribute to three of the PAF's best flyers—Capt. Danilo Policarpio, Lt. Mary Grace Tenorio, and Lt. Rizza Simon—who perished in recent aircraft accidents, possibly due to inadequate equipment.

She ordered AFP chief of staff Roy Cimatu to purchase electronic eyesight equipment with the latest $10 million US military assistance.

The Americans amply illustrated the need for reliable air surveillance equipment during the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf, she reminded her audience.

"Balikatan showed us how much our pilots need electronic eyesight when navigating at night or in bad weather," she said.

But Ms Macapagal stressed that PAF pilots had more than made up for their lack of modern equipment. She recalled that US Admiral Dennis Blair, former US Pacific forces commander-in-chief, and his aides had been "awestruck" after witnessing Filipino pilots in action.

"They told me that we had the best pilots in the world," the President said, "and I agree."

She recounted the experience of former Abu Sayyaf hostage Gracia Burnham with her Filipino rescuers. "She said she had been airlifted within an hour after the military swooped down on her captors. Then she told me how touched she was, when one of the PAF men in the helicopter kept tapping her cheek lightly and pleading, 'Don't die, don't die.' And she didn't die."

During yesterday's program, Ms Macapagal awarded the Gold Cross to two helicopter pilots, Lt. Gaudencio Lauron and Lt. Jun Samirin, who "braved hostile fire, treacherous terrain and hazardous weather, to bring Gracia Burnham to safety."

Under Balikatan 02-1, which winds up on July 31, US Special Forces trained their Filipino counterparts in tracking down the Abu Sayyaf more efficiently.

Ms Macapagal promised the PAF 10 more Huey choppers, on top of the five acquired last year. The Air Force also recently acquired a C-130 transport plane.

On the PAF's anniversary last year, the President announced she was selling the presidential plane, a Fokker jet, to raise funds for the PAF.

"We have put the plane on the block," she reported yesterday, "but there have been no takers."

Ms Macapagal no longer uses the plane. Ousted President Joseph Estrada had also refused to board it, doubting that it was safe.

Only the military uses the plane occasionally now, despite the risks.

ELITE Air Force troops strut their stuff at the parade grounds during the PAF's 55th anniversary celebrations. EDWIN BACASMAS

Red groups wage bloody turf war

TARLAC—Communist guerrillas are waging a deadly campaign to wipe out a rival splinter group operating north of Metro Manila, military officials said yesterday.

The two factions are waging a turf war over the Bataan peninsula and nearby Zambales province, with seven deaths recorded in three armed clashes in the past three years, said Northern Luzon Command chief Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia.

Aside from fighting, the two sides have been tipping off the military about the activities of their rivals, he said without elaborating.

The Marxist-Leninist Party of the Philippines and its Revolutionary People's Army (RHB) declared their break from exiled Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Maria Sison four years ago.

The RHB has about 300 members, outgunned by about a thousand New People's Army rebels operating in Bataan, Zambales and Tarlac provinces, Garcia said.

Since the NPA killed seven RHB members in a clash near Morong town in September 1999, there were other clashes last March near the town of Palauig as well as near the town of Bulacan last week, the general said.

"The break-away forces have been contesting the Zambales area with the NPA for influence amongst the populace, although both have been doing exactly the same like extortion and instilling fear in villages," said Army Lt.Col. Domingo Tutaan, an infantry battalion commander in Bataan.

The 12,000-member NPA has been waging an armed guerrilla campaign since 1969.

After a deadly purge between the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Netherlands-based Sison ordered the NPA to "rectify" past errors and to go back to the Maoist strategy of the CPP, that of "protracted people's war" to encircle the cities from rural redoubts.

Garcia said the NPA is redeploying some of its units based in Aurora province, northeast of Manila, to the RHB areas. ***Agence France Presse***

Court orders rapist's death on Oct. 16

A LOWER court has ordered a convicted rapist to be put to death by injection on Oct. 16, in what would be the first judicial execution in the Philippines in two years, official sources said Monday.

Under the "heinous crimes" law passed in 1994, only a presidential pardon can save the life of Alfredo Nardo.

The sources, who asked not to be named, said the lower court in Legazpi City set Nardo's execution date a year after the Supreme Court upheld his death sentence.

Under the law, death row convicts must be executed within 18 months after the Supreme Court upholds their sentence.

The government executed seven prisoners including four rapists in 1999, but then President Joseph Estrada later ordered an indefinite moratorium amid pressure from Roman Catholic bishops.

After Estrada was toppled in a popular revolt last year, his successor President Macapagal-Arroyo declared that she would not veto the judicial execution by lethal injection of convicted kidnappers.

Corrections bureau officials said 17 prisoners are due to be put to death this year unless the President pardons them.

Fourteen are rapists while two are kidnappers Roderick Licayan and Roberto Lara. The other one was convicted of robbery with homicide.

The Supreme Court upheld the sentences of Licayan and Lara in November, meaning they must be executed not earlier than November this year and but not later than May next year, bureau officials said. ***AFP***

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Ebdane calls cop chiefs' bluff: Go ahead, quit

By TJ Burgonio

TALKING tough, the Philippine National Police chief yesterday called the bluff of 30 provincial directors who offered to resign in protest of the recent relief of seven colleagues in connection with "jueteng."

Newly installed Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said that, "for the good of the police organization," he would "consider" the offer. The directors, mostly from Luzon, stated their proposal in a manifesto signed June 29.

During a press briefing, Ebdane went as far as to say that the police officials should formally file individual courtesy resignations.

However, Ebdane said he would meet with the disgruntled directors to discuss their concerns.

"I have talked to some of them," he revealed. "They said they wanted the new leadership to have a free hand in reorganizing the PNP."

In their joint statement, the directors said the National Police Commission had "exceeded its authority" in ordering the relief of their seven fellow officials, led by Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay of the National Capital Region.

"It is on record that these relieved police officers have continuously and seriously supported the campaign against all forms of illegal gambling," they said.

Ebdane declined to confirm reports that some of the relieved officials would be given posts at the PNP national headquarters.

He did say that this was a possibility, "in the continuing quest for advancement and reorganization, since they were not charged with any offense except for command responsibility."

A source said that this was part of the "win-win arrangement" fashioned by Malacañang and top police officials to cushion the impact of the incident.

But the transfer was put on hold due to strong opposition from members of the PNP Senior Officers' Promotions and Placements Board (SOPPB), the source said.

Ebdane disclosed a forthcoming reshuffle in several phases within the PNP.

"It's a done deal," he said. "The documents are prepared. We only need to get clearance from the Commission on Elections."

Election rules ban movement of government personnel until July 31, in connection with the joint barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan polls next week.

Barangay exec's aide killed

LESS than a week before the joint barangay and youth polls on July 15, reports of political violence are starting to pour in.

Yesterday, a belated military dispatch said communist rebels shot and killed one supporter of a candidate for barangay captain in Pio Corpuz, Masbate.

This was the third poll-related incidence of violence reported by the military in the past three days, but the first involving suspected members of the New People's Army.

The three separate incidents claimed the lives of three persons, including an unidentified NPA rebel.

According to the military, the NPA-initiated incident occurred on July 5. Six unidentified men armed with .45 caliber pistols barged into the house of barangay Capt. Rene Luzara Estoy at 10:45 p.m. and tried to talk him out of seeking reelection.

A heated argument ensued, and one of the armed men shot Obe Lapak, 36, a supporter of Estoy's.

The group then hog-tied Estoy, but he escaped.

Pio Corpuz police rushed to the area and caught up with the intruders. The resulting firefight ended in the death of one suspected NPA rebel, and the recovery of a pistol.

The second incident occurred in Carmen town, Agusan del Norte, also on Friday.

Reports from Camp Aguinaldo said three armed men shot to death Amado Cuadra, barangay captain of Cahayagan.

Cuadra had just come from an afternoon meeting and was on his way home when he was fired upon by the suspects, who immediately fled.

Martin P. Marfil

Owwa men escalate fight; Pat pooh-poohs move

THE RIFT between the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas has reached foreign shores as Owwa employees mobilized 23 welfare centers abroad in the Oust-Sto. Tomas campaign.

Infuriated by Sto. Tomas' threat to stop disbursements at the welfare agency, Owwa employees created a consultative council composed of Owwa employees and non-government organizations to boost the campaign to remove Sto. Tomas from the Department of Labor and Employment.

Sto. Tomas, however, said she has already explained to the President during a Cabinet meeting the rift between her and Owwa employees, who are angry over the suspension of some P80,000 worth of benefits that the Department of Budget and Management had ruled as illegal.

"This will be resolved eventually, sooner than you expect," Sto. Tomas said in a phone interview yesterday. "They cannot continue to disobey the Owwa board, to stop working, to use official time and facilities for their personal campaign."

She said the campaign against her was manipulated by Owwa administrator Wilhelm Soriano, adding that the welfare officers were merely following orders to support her removal from the DOLE.

Blanche S. Rivera

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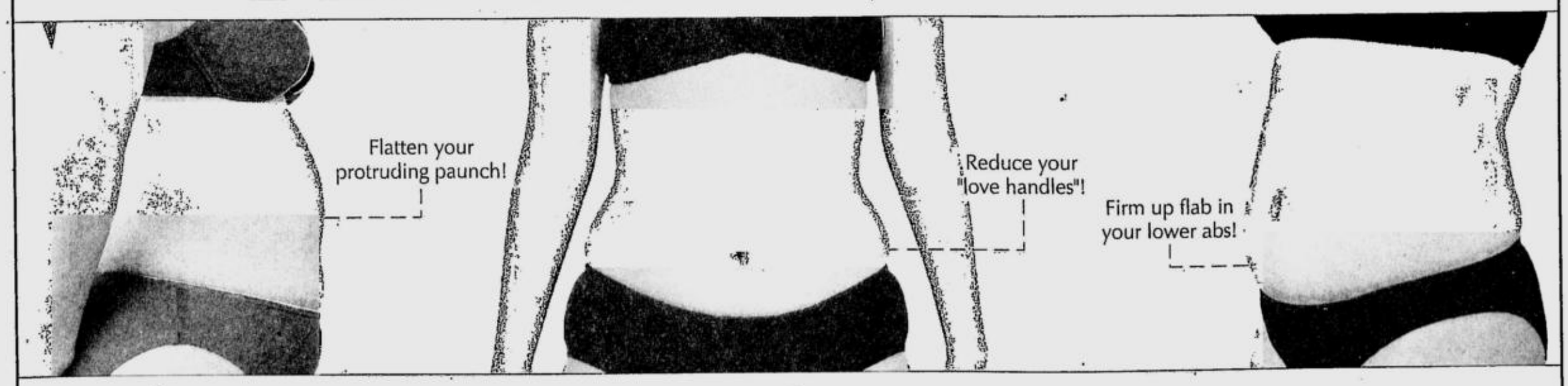

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14-10 vote in Senate for Gloria bloc seen

From page A1

In a separate interview, another Palace source said the administration would gain the support of three senators, Ople among them.

"If the opposition can court our side, then the administration has all the right to do the same on their end. This is democracy," the second source said.

According to the source, Ople will still vote for the opposition bloc led by Sen. Edgardo Angara but will later resign when he formally accepts the foreign affairs portfolio.

Members of the Senate opposition met yesterday afternoon at the Manila Hotel in an apparent effort to consolidate its forces with Ople's expected move.

Angara and Ople were said to have arrived together for the meeting that lasted three hours.

Senate sources said the opposition had called the meeting to get a reassurance from Ople that he would not accept the DFA post before the opening of the second regular session of the 12th Congress.

"There is also some concern that the new majority could be short-lived because once (Sen. Ramon) Revilla comes back from the United States, the administration will have the numbers again," said a source.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable yesterday said the search committee formed to list candidates for foreign secretary was "not under any pressure to make a recommendation at this time."

Afable said he did not know of any plan by the committee—composed of the President's adviser Vicky Garchitorena, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, and Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman—to meet anytime soon.

"This matter will have to be handled with deliberation," he said. "The President has not issued any directive (to the committee) imposing a time frame."

'Prostitute'

Administration congressmen continued to pelt Ople with criticism and urged the President not to reward him with the foreign affairs portfolio.

House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II minced no words in objecting to Ople's purported plan to join the Cabinet but only after he had voted to install the Angara-led opposition.

"He's like a prostitute," Gonzales said of Ople, adding that the latter should "accept or reject" the offer with "no ifs and buts."

"He has not been appointed yet but he has already become a problem," said Gonzales, who chairs the House committee on rules.

Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri said: "We cannot be playing both sides."

Zubiri, a member of the group of young congressmen called "Spice Boys" and among the first to object to the giving of plum posts to the opposition, added that his group would bat for a "younger government that is attuned to the 21st century."

Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez assailed Ople for "holding us (the administration) on a string" and for supposedly wanting to project an image of indispensability.

"It's difficult to trust a person like that in the long term," said Gonzalez, one of the first lawmakers to support Ople's appointment to the DFA until the latter aired his "non-negotiable" stand.

The Iloilo congressman said the President should ignore suggestions for Ople's appointment to the Cabinet and "just look for somebody within (the administration) who has the right credentials and loyalty."

Gonzalez said the apparent motive for the Ople scenario was to enable the opposition to get sensitive committees like the blue ribbon and the public order committees.

He said the opposition wanted to chair the public order committee so it could dismiss a derogatory report against Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

"This question of power-sharing is a myth because they've always had it since the 12th Congress," Gonzalez said. "There are more committees in the Senate than there are senators. Even the opposition senators chair committees. So what (the opposition) really wants is to grab the sensitive committees."

Davao Rep. Prospero Nograles said Ople was tailor-fit for the job "but he must accept the position without conditions."

"I have full trust and confidence that Senator Ople will act according to the best interest of the nation and his sense of history. He cannot allow another mistake so late in his career," Nograles said, apparently referring to Ople's vote against the opening of evidence at deposed President Joseph Estrada's impeachment trial.

OPLE

So far, Ople has Representatives Willie Villarama, Prospero Pichay Jr. and Nograles as supporters in the House.

No conditions

Speaking at a press conference, administration Sen. Renato Cayetano said Ople should accept the top DFA post without any condition.

"It's either he accepts it or rejects it," Cayetano said, echoing Gonzales in the House.

He said any condition imposed by Ople would only add political color to the selection of the next foreign secretary after Vice President Teofisto Guingona.

Former Ambassador to the United States Ernesto Maceda said he had asked Social Welfare Secretary Soliman to strike his name off the list of nominees.

Maceda said that while no offer had yet been made to him, the persistent mention of his name in newspaper reports prompted him to issue the statement.

"I have no desire to go back to the life of infighting and severe media scrutiny that a Cabinet member is subjected to," he said.

He also acknowledged that there were "other outstanding persons qualified for the job," and cited Ople, former Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo, and Ambassadors Cesar Bautista and Domingo Siazon Jr.

"I wish them the best of luck," he said.

But Maceda called on Ople to accept the offer, saying the latter was "already in the pinnacle of his political career because the end of his term as senator is less than two years away."

Maceda pointed out that Ople, being an outsider, would be the best choice for the top DFA post because "he can oversee the department's daily grind without favoring anyone."

No meddling

The impasse at the Senate was brought about by the defection of Sen. John Osmeña to the opposition.

Malacañang continues to maintain its public position that while the Office of the President does not want to see a prolonged impasse, it will not meddle with the Senate problem in an institutional way.

At a dinner last week with INQUIRER officers, editors and staff, the President said the senators would "have to work it out" among themselves.

"I'd rather not have an impasse but it's their affair," she said, adding that her current priorities consisted of stamping out kidnapping and other organized crime activities and reducing power rates.

Before he returned from California in the United States, where he had a medical checkup, Ople met with Dante Ang, the President's longtime personal publicist, and Congressman Villarama, who at various times served as his and Ms Macapagal's chief of staff.

The topic of their discussions was the foreign affairs portfolio.

Ople was among the first of Ang's clients in his public relations business.

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Coup d'etat charge against Reyes junked

From page A1

supporters, was dismissed because the alleged coup that happened on Jan. 20, 2001 lacked the "element of swift attack," explained Ombudsman spokesperson Crispin de Jesus yesterday.

"The element of swift attack, an armed attack (done) with stealth and strategy, as defined by the law is not present in that event," he said.

De Jesus said a copy of the Ombudsman order dismissing the complaint would be released to the media today.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto inhibited himself early on from the case, citing his longstanding association with some of the respondents. His overall deputy ombudsman, Margarito Gervacio, approved the recommendation of the panel that investigated the complaint.

Deputy Ombudsman for the Military Orlando Casimiro, who headed the panel, reportedly cited three reasons the military officers charged in the complaint could not be held liable:

- The act of Reyes and his group should not be separated from the legitimacy of Edsa II because the event had already been declared legitimate by the Supreme Court.
- The military officers did not use any force or commit any violence when they joined Edsa II.
- The mandate of the military is to protect the people and not a particular individual.

The order said the action of the military officers led by Reyes, retired Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, and retired Generals Fortunato Abat and Leo Alvez did not use any force against Estrada to step down from office and leave Malacañang.

"No threats, violence or force was committed. The withdrawal (of Estrada) was passive," the panel said in its resolution.

The complaint for mutiny was filed by newspaper publishers Ninez Cacho-Olivares and Amado Macasaet, columnists Horacio "Ducky" Paredes and Herman Tiu Laurel, and former Estrada political adviser Angelito Banayo.

They invoked a 1990 law punishing coup plotters, and drew much of their evidence from a book written by INQUIRER columnist and editorial consultant Amando Doronila.

The complainants called their action a "test case" on "whether our laws are sufficient deterrents for criminals in the military establishment."

They said that the complaint would also serve to "determine whether our justice system indeed works . . . or is just merely (sic) a tool for the rich and the powerful to further perpetuate their illegal ways and benefit from the spoils of their lawbreaking."

The case was filed on May 16, a year and four months after Estrada's ouster, and just over a year after he was arrested and detained on plunder charges.

The complainants accused Reyes and his group of violating Article 134-A of the Revised Penal Code or Republic Act No. 6968, which the 8th Congress passed to deter coup attempts similar to those that rocked the Aquino administration.

Ombudsman spokesperson De Jesus said the complainants could still file a motion for reconsideration. The decision dismissing the complaint was issued in the afternoon of July 4, he said.

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Bunye to be named press secretary

From page A1

as her new press secretary, according to a Palace official.

The supposed impending appointment, which was confirmed yesterday by a source in the Bunye camp, will constitute another phase in the ongoing Cabinet revamp that has seen the resignation of Pantaleon Alvarez as transportation secretary and of Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. as foreign secretary.

If the appointment pushes through, a father-and-daughter team will speak for the First Couple, Bunye's lawyer-daughter Patricia being the spokesperson of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

"The selection process is over. The appropriate announcement will be made soon," said the Palace source, who asked not to be named.

According to talk in the political grapevine, the trade-off for the post of press secretary is that Bunye will no longer run for the lone congressional district of Muntinlupa in the 2004 elections. This will supposedly clear the way for the incumbent, opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon's son, Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon, to seek reelection unopposed.

In an interview conducted weeks ago, Bunye said representatives of the President had offered to him the post that would be relinquished by Press Secretary-on-leave Rigoberto Tiglao. But Bunye denied that the offer was related to the current impasse in the Senate.

Ms Macapagal also previously confirmed to Palace reporters that Bunye was at the top of a list of candidates recommended by her search committee.

The source in the Bunye camp, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, said the President and her supposed nominee recently met to discuss the position.

If Bunye is named press secretary, he will bring to the Cabinet a wealth of experience in government and private-sector work.

A product of the Ateneo de Manila University's law school, he was a print and radio correspondent in the 1960s. At some point, he also worked for the influential Ayala family.

He served as mayor of Muntinlupa and as chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority.

Tiglao

The President had earlier said she would replace Tiglao as press secretary because she anticipated rough sailing for him when his confirmation came up at the Commission on Appointments.

As her spokesperson and in her defense, Tiglao has crossed swords with a number of opposition lawmakers.

But the President had said she would retain him as her spokesperson because they "metamorphosed together" while firming up political and economic convictions in their youth. She also said he could "read" her mind on several issues.

Tiglao went on leave in April to take on a fellowship at the Kyoto University of Japan.

He is scheduled to complete his fellowship in October, but Palace insiders said he might come back earlier. Upon his return, he is to again take up the role of spokesperson for the President and, concurrently, her chief of staff.

Silvestre Afable, head of the Presidential Management Staff, has been subbing for Tiglao in his absence.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, July 9, 2002
14th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Hos 8:4-7, 11-13
Gospel: Mt 9:32-38

Some people brought to Jesus a man who was dumb because he was possessed by a demon. When the demon was driven out, the dumb man began to speak. The crowds were astonished and said, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel." (But the Pharisees said, "He drives away demons with the help of the prince of demons.")

Jesus went around all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom, and he cured every sickness and disease. When he saw the crowds he was moved with pity, for they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the workers are only few. Ask the master of the harvest to send workers to gather his harvest."

Commentary

Like Jesus, any of us who tries to fulfill his/her mission will be criticized. The Pharisees were not bad people, but they could not swallow the success of Jesus with the crowds. To those who said: "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel," the Pharisees replied: "He drives away demons with the help of the prince of demons." Criticism will not stop Jesus from doing his work. The harvest is abundant. There are plenty of people tired, depressed, abandoned, lacking everything; even when they have things they lack happiness, meaning, sense of direction. Jesus formed his disciples not only through his teaching but also by sending them on missions. The same happens in today's Church. If you feel called to do mission work tell your parish priest or contact us, Claretian missionaries.

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'SWAN SONG'

Desierto hopes to 'deliver coup de grace' in Erap trial

By Volt C. Contreras

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto yesterday said he expected the prosecution in the Estrada plunder case to wrap up its presentation of evidence this September, or a month after his retirement.

DESIERTO: He steps down on Aug. 4.

But Desierto, set to step down Aug. 4, said he would still be around when government lawyers "reach the climax... deliver the coup de grace" against deposed President Joseph Estrada.

He was referring to the presentation of key prosecution witnesses—former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and Equitable-PCIBank executive Clarissa Ocampo.

"I might conduct the direct examination of Clarissa," Desierto said. He agreed with this reporter that it would be a fitting "swan song," for his seven years as chief graft investigator.

As for Singson, Desierto said he was asking the Sandiganbayan to reset the cross-examination of another prosecution witness, Emma Lim, so that the ex-governor could take the stand tomorrow.

Lim's grilling was supposed to continue yesterday, but flash floods and heavy monsoon rains in Metro Manila forced most government offices, including the anti-graft court, to suspend operations.

Desierto said he wanted to present Singson much earlier than expected because he did not want to lose precious time.

"They (defense lawyers) always say they want to speed up the presentation of evidence. With Singson taking the stand they'll immediately know what they're up against," he stressed. He said prosecution would also ask the court to conduct hearings on Fridays, again to expedite the process.

Although the court is currently focused on "juetengate," Desierto said Singson's direct examination will cover not only jueteng, but also another component of the plunder case, the P130-million tobacco excise tax scandal.

This way, Singson need not wait for another long spell to deliver his piece on the tax scam, Desierto explained.

After Singson, Desierto said, another witness would "confirm documents on the flow of jueteng money," capping the prosecution's juetengate case.

Government lawyers would then "resume" presentation of evidence on the Jose Velarde account by calling in Ocampo, he added.

"Before I retire, the prosecution will have presented the essence of its case," Desierto said. "Barring any further delays, we will finish presentation of evidence by September."

From there, it's up to Estrada's court-appointed lawyers to present their own witnesses and evidence—although there's still no telling how, since the deposed president had earlier refused to recognize the proceedings, or cooperate with his counsels de officio.

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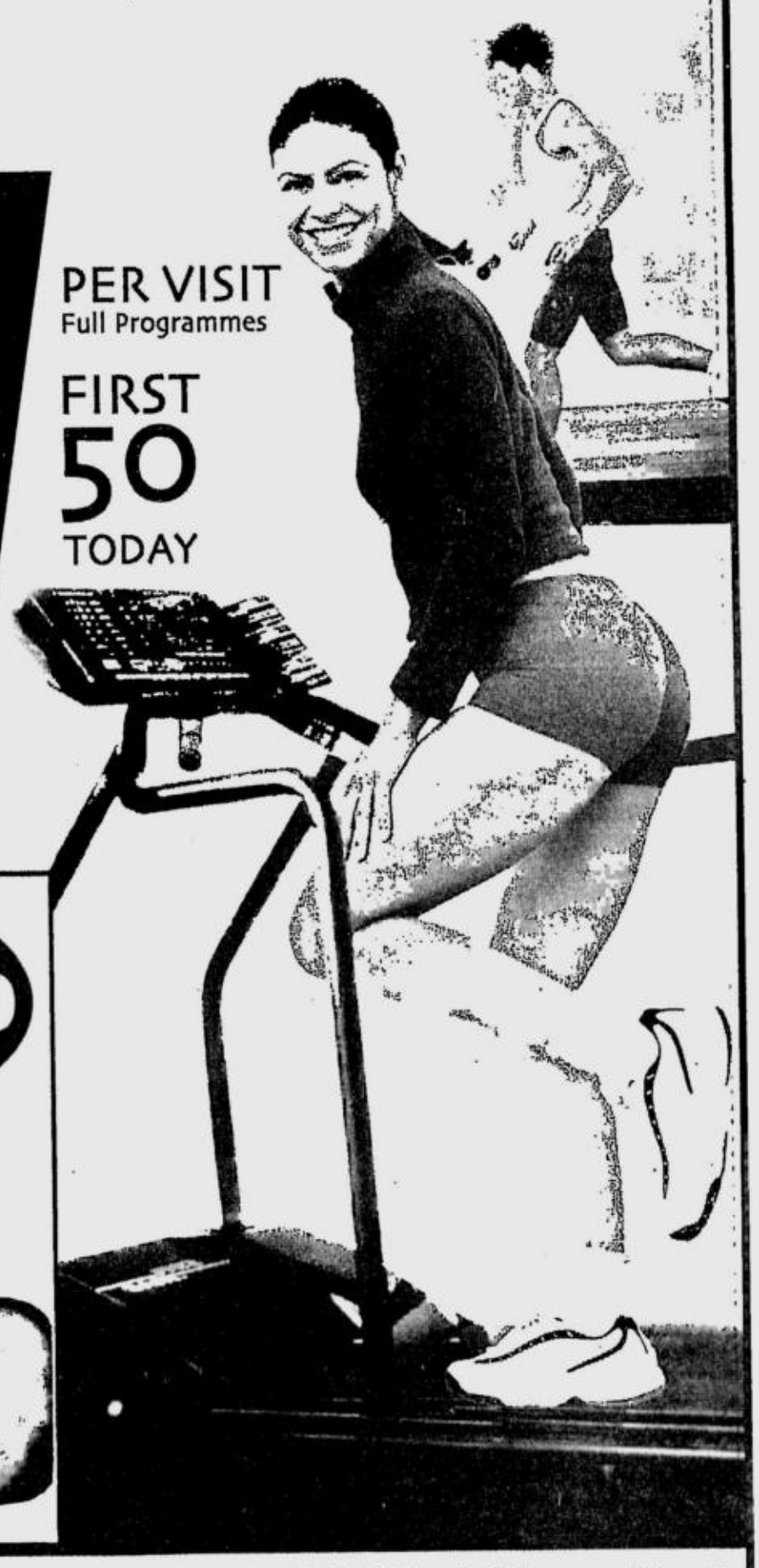
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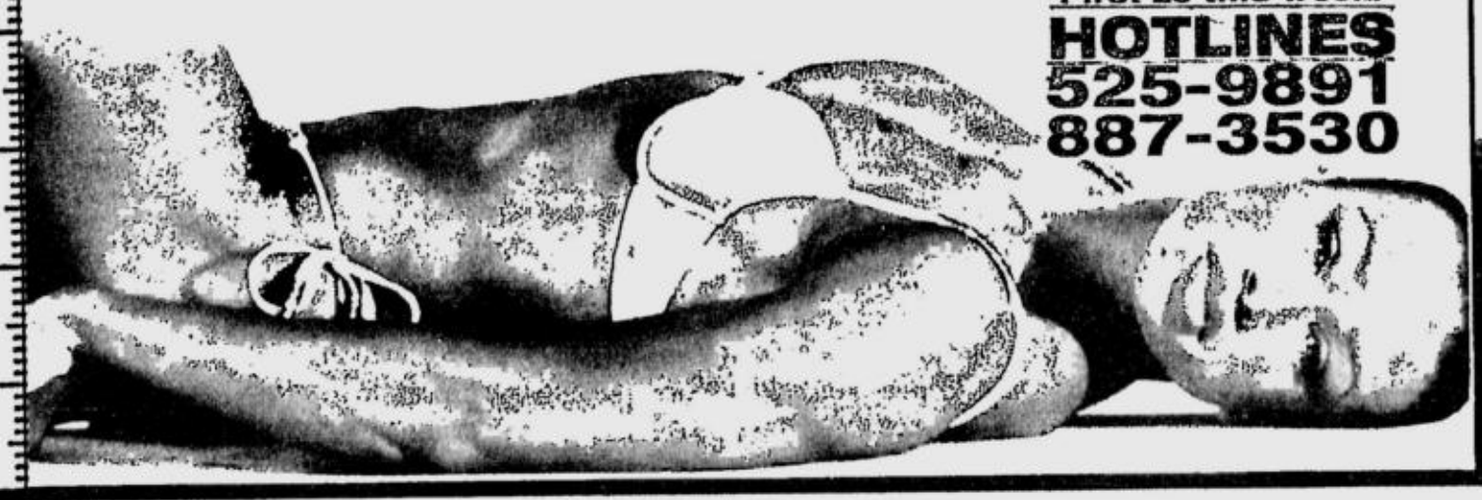
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Cayetano seeks shutdown of 11 Napocor power plants

GMA order: 'Dig deeper' into IPP deals very carefully

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE ONGOING review of the 35 independent power producers (IPP) contracts will proceed very carefully so it will not unduly alarm investors, Malacañang said yesterday.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has given the review committee another three months to "dig deeper" into each contract and determine how to address the legal and financial issues.

Last week the committee announced that only six IPP contracts passed its assessment.

The rest had either legal or financial problems; five contracts had both legal and financial issues.

The committee is composed of the Departments of Finance, Energy and Justice.

"The President has ordered the committee (to) dig deeper into this and come out with more detailed findings," Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said yesterday.

"We can not do this very hastily without affecting our credibility before investors.

"We have to follow due process, prudence, the rule of law and the integrity of the contracts. The government cannot proceed very hastily here without prejudicing its own position," Afable said.

He said the committee purposely withheld its judgment on whether or not a contract was grossly disadvantageous to the government.

"The committee was being prudent... It has determined that a deeper study is to be made to determine whether a contract is grossly disadvantageous or not," he said.

"In due time we will know the details about each contract and how this inquiry will proceed under the rules of due process and rule of law," he added.

Meanwhile, Malacañang resisted calls from some sectors to hold former President Fidel Ramos liable for entering into the 29 questionable IPP contracts.

"The issue of filing cases in court is not relevant at this time," Afable said. "(The committee) is still at the stage of formulating detailed options to take."

By Rocky Nazareno

TO CUT the cost of the purchased power adjustment (PPA) to its "barest minimum or even near zero," administration Sen. Renato Cayetano yesterday sought the "mothballing" of 11 National Power Corp. plants.

The Napocor plants produce 2,861 megawatts, over and above the 4,500 megawatts produced by independent power producers (IPP).

Cayetano said the proposed mothballing would only be temporary. "It will be implemented until such time that the 10-point program of President Macapagal-Arroyo shall have been completed," Cayetano said in a statement.

He acknowledged that the President's program was the result of recognizing some contracts and passing necessary legislation amending the Energy Power Industry Reform Act (Epira).

Cayetano said he had written the President, recommending the temporary shutdown of the 11 plants: Calaca Coal (600 mw), Masinloc Coal (600 mw), Makban Geothermal (410 mw), Tiwi Geothermal (275 mw), Angat Hydro (246 mw), Binga Hydro (100 mw), Magat Hydro (380 mw), Panay Diesel 1 (37 mw), Bohol Diesel 1(20 mw), Palinpinon Geothermal 1 (113 mw) and Palinpinon Geothermal 2 (80 mw).

"The public is no longer satisfied with mere reduction (of PPA charges)," Cayetano stressed. "They are demanding zero PPA or the least possible amount."

He said this could only happen "if Napocor and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (Psalm) shouldered the cost and did not pass it on to consumers."

The Napocor yesterday assured the public that their monthly billings would go down further if contracts with IPPs were renegotiated as proposed by a Malacañang review committee.

Data from Napocor's tariff division showed that households using a monthly average of 300 kilowatt hours would pay P230 and P206 less in July and August, respectively, compared to previous months.

Napocor vice president Ranier Butalid said in an interview that a renegotiation could mean savings for the power firm, which would translate to even lower electricity charges.

"These possible decreases are on top of rate reductions in May and June following the President's order for us to peg PPA charges to 40 centavos per kWh," Butalid said.

Napocor officer in charge/president Roland S. Quilala said in a statement that the power firm also managed to cut its selling rate due to lower fuel costs during the period covered.

Butalid could not give an estimate of how much further the rates would be cut if IPP contracts were revised.

"We still have to study the interagency committee's report," he said, referring to a Cabinet-level Malacañang review committee that recently looked into the contracts.

Last week, the committee said 29 of 35 IPP deals did not pass their review. Of these, it said, 11 had "remedial financial" issues, and another 11 might require renegotiation.

Also yesterday, former President Fidel Ramos reiterated that he was in favor of the renegotiating the IPP contracts entered into by his administration, as recommended by the review committee

Ramos said he would subject himself to an investigation if the government agencies involved would look at the IPP issue with objectivity.

During a news conference in his Makati City office yesterday, Ramos maintained that the contracts were implemented following "due diligence process" prescribed by the Expanded Build Operate Transfer Law, and which took several years.

Ramos hinted that he got to sign the contracts just before his term ended, precisely because of the time it took to complete the arduous process.

The former President dared his critics to ask former Energy Secretaries Delfin Lazaro and Francisco Viray, and the Napocor chairpersons during his time if he asked them to favor certain IPPs, "even by telephone... or body language."

Entering into the contracts was a judgment call, Ramos maintained. "If I didn't make those difficult decisions, we could still be mired in daily brownouts, and investors would shun the Philippines."

"If they want to investigate me, let them investigate other (difficult) decisions I had to make," Ramos said.

He harped on the success of his decision to privatize pieces of the military's real estate, the deregulation of air transportation, and the deregulation of the telecommunications industry. *With Ronnel Domingo and Norman Bordadora*

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Clear mandate

EDITORIALS

SHE may be making political mistakes left and right, as she herself has admitted, but President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is at least finding her bearings in the one area that has a more immediate impact on the citizenry. No, we are not talking about economics. We are talking about her get-tough call on criminality and the timely marching order she gave to the new leadership of the Philippine National Police to focus on the two significant areas where public order and safety have lately taken a beating: kidnapping and drug trafficking.

Evincing a new urgency, the President directed new PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. to go after kidnappers and eliminate kidnapping "in one year." The order does not sound like a mere rhetorical flourish because Ms Macapagal, ever the technocrat, set targets and yardsticks for the campaign. She promised to look at "baseline figures" to determine the number of kidnap syndicates. Against these figures, she will track the success of the campaign.

Obviously heartened by what she considers to be a successful campaign against the Abu Sayyaf, she wants nothing less than a repeat in the kidnapping front. She said she regularly monitored the military campaign against the extremists and will do the same for the anti-kidnapping campaign. What all this means is that the President will be breathing down Ebdane's neck so the police can show some results in the rather stagnant offensive against kidnappers.

The poor performance of the police in this drive explains her decision to scrap the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force. Ebdane has made lame calls to have the task force retained, but he obviously has no feel for the public pulse. Attuned to the theater of politics, which is a play of symbolism, the President rightly knows that a new initiative is needed. The essence of that initiative may be un[illegible], but [illegible] knows it must at least have a new face.

The new face is the [illegible] task force headed by Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte that will help Ebdane and the PNP. Duterte brings to his new assignment the record of his own success at ridding Davao of vice and crime. The rub here is that for all his reported achievements in fighting crime, Duterte may not provide the human face to the national campaign. Human rights groups have deplored his iron-fisted efforts that generally approximate the police's unwritten rule of engagement: shoot first, ask questions later.

His supporters, of course, have argued that Duterte has acquired grace and some rudimentary knowledge of human rights while serving as mayor and during a brief stint in Congress, and has come to appreciate the protocols of democracy that uphold individual rights and shun overkill. For the sake of the anti-crime crusade, let us hope they are right. It will be a sign of the utter failure of all the efforts against the crime menace when the face of the transgressor melds with that of the law enforcer. In some instances, that has already happened, but the public must hope against hope.

Confused mandate

SOME law enforcers confuse their mission with that of lawbreakers. Former PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza confuses his old job with his new stint as secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communication. In his first week on the job, he vowed to solve the traffic problem and check smuggling. He claimed those were the mission orders he had received from the President.

Perhaps he should receive a pat in the back for obedience. But surely the President knows the DOTC secretary has other things to do than unclog traffic and bust smugglers. The principal duty of the DOTC secretary is to plan and implement policies and programs to improve public transport and mobility and to enhance telecommunications.

Mendoza therefore may be guilty of selective memory. He only wants those aspects of the DOTC secretary's job that appeal to his cop's sensibility. He may also be guilty of nostalgia, which is quite incomprehensible. Considering the PNP's poor record in crime-busting, and even traffic management, there is no reason for him to pine for the old slapdash days.

But there's the future waiting for him. If he's bright enough, he will know that the job of the DOTC chief is different from that of the police chief. If he fails to realize that, the public will have to face more than traffic jams and smuggling.

If there's no offer, what is Ople accepting?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHAT is it in the Department of Foreign Affairs that makes people act irrationally? First, a resignation was accepted even before it was submitted. Now a job is being accepted even before it was formally offered. Sen. Blas Ople is behaving like a flirt who is already telling the man on whom she has a crush that she would marry him even before he has proposed. Ironically for Ople, that is so un-Filipino.

Administration officials has said many times, in print and on broadcast, that no formal offer of the DFA post has been made to Ople. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said it herself during the dinner at the INQUIRER offices last Thursday. I was there and I heard her say it.

But here comes Ople saying he will accept—he has to accept the job because "it is a sovereign command" by the President. If the President has not made a formal offer to him, how can there be a "command" for him to follow?

Ople even set a condition for his acceptance of the DFA position: it must not be tied to his vote in the Senate reorganization when it resumes sessions on July 25. Only after he has voted will he resign as a senator and take his oath as foreign secretary.

This is obviously intended for his colleagues in the opposition. "*Walang iwanan*" is the motto of this particular group, but here is Ople deserting them.

No, he is not deserting them is the intended message in Ople's condition for accepting the DFA portfolio. He will vote first in the reorganization. He will stick with them, wouldn't he?

But when he is already a Cabinet member and no longer a senator, the balance of power in the Senate would be 12-11 in favor of the administration. So the administration bloc can ask for a new voting and reorganization and recover the majority bloc, the leadership and choice committee chairmanships in the Senate. Ople's ploy is no obvious it is insulting.

As Amando Doronila said in his "Analysis" in yesterday's INQUIRER, Ople is "an opportunist masquerading as a statesman." Bull's-eye.

Ople is not naïve. He knows why the feelers are being sent: so the administration can regain the majority in the Senate. So he knows that once he has voted and left the Senate, there would be another reorganization and his opposition group would be defeated. It's desertion, plain and simple, whatever he says. Far from being a statesman, he is a deserter.

I don't understand why Ople would want to be foreign secretary. His nationalistic stance is the opposite of President Macapagal's pro-American and pro-globalization policies. Will he also abandon his convictions to follow the President's wishes? For if he doesn't, he won't last long in the DFA. Ms Macapagal will drop him like a hot potato. He cannot go back to the Senate anymore. He would be expendable for the Macapagal administration.

As senator, on the other hand, he would be in office until 2004. He can be m[illegible] and even Senat[illegible] possible [illegible]cessor to the presiden[illegible] the Vice President. He wants to leave all that in exchange for the DFA secretaryship, for which position, according to Doronila, his qualifications are "overrated"?

In fairness to Ople, maybe he does not really intend to accept the job. Maybe he is just using it as propaganda against the administration, to get himself in the headlines. And he has no intention at all of abandoning his opposition colleagues.

For Ople's sake, I hope this is the real situation.

* * *

As usual, the government was again caught flatfooted by the floods. By hypnotizing themselves, the mayors of Metro Manila are convinced that the garbage in their jurisdiction are being collected. The floods ought to wake them up from their trance. The floods are caused by uncollected garbage clogging the drainage pipes, the creeks and *esteros*, and the rivers. If they are being collected, they would not end up there.

The Philippines is the only country in the world where the garbage dump of squatters are the roofs of passing trains. Why do the squatters throw their garbage on top of trains? Because their garbage is not being collected.

The Metro Manila Development Authority and the mayors must discipline their constituents, otherwise we will continue to have floods even with the slightest rains. Do you know that in Malabon and Navotas, the streets are flooded even when there is no rain? High tide in the rivers floods the streets and homes because the rivers have become shallow from the tons of garbage being dumped into them every day. Moreover, the rivers have become open cesspools. It wasn't always that way. It became that way when squatters were allowed to build their shanties along the banks of the waterways. It's convenient for them to toss all their waste out the window into the river.

The polluted waters killed all the fishponds for which Malabon and Navotas were once famous. With the fishponds dead, the owner filed them up with dirt and sold them as subdivision lots. Thus, the rainwater that used to flow into the ponds have no place to go but the streets and the homes of the residents.

Worse, Imelda Marcos had the bright idea of making Dagat-Dagatan—which used to be a huge catchment basin for excess water—into a housing project. All the excess water that used to go there now end up in the streets of Malabon and Navotas.

If Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon were more imaginative, he could turn the two municipalities into the Venice of Asia and attract tourists. That should make their residents accept their sad fate.

Alternatives

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

WHAT to make of the SWS survey?

Only one out of three Filipinos, it says, is satisfied with democracy. That is quite a big fall from the level registered by respondents last March. The other two-thirds do not like the way democracy works in this country. Or specifically, the way democracy currently works in this country. They liked it well enough during Fidel Ramos' and most of Erap's time. They began disliking it in October 1999, which was still Erap's time.

If I recall right, October 1999 was shortly after Erap made headlines for trying to muzzle the press. He was widely believed to have engineered the closure of the Gokongwei-owned Manila Times. And only a couple of months earlier, he had initiated a boycott against the INQUIRER, coercing movie producers and government offices to remove or not place ads in it. Two huge rallies arose to protest it—and Marcos-type cronyism, which had for its main beneficiary, Lucio Tan—at that time. There was one in Aug. 21, to Cory Aquino's and Jaime Cardinal Sin's eternal credit (President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would not make an appearance until more than a year later). And there was another one exactly one month later, on Sept. 21, the anniversary of martial law.

One would imagine people would be bullish about democracy then. Not because of Erap but in spite of him. One would imagine that people would be heartened by the fact that this country still minded that their rights were trampled upon.

But before we bang our heads against the wall and say that truly this country has become hopeless, I think we should take a second look at those survey results. I have no problem with their accuracy. You take the Pulse Asia survey along with it, the one that says 19 percent of Filipinos want to pack up their bags and leave for other shores, and you can believe it. I remember again the letter-writer who protested in quite passionate terms Jose Abueva's findings that most Filipinos approved of the way democracy works in this country. Had he been one of the respondents, he said, he would very definitely have said no. The SWS confirms his sentiment to be the majority one.

I have no problem with the SWS survey's accuracy. But I have a problem with its significance. I'm sure the respondents were talking about democracy when they said they approved or disapproved of the way it worked in this country, but that doesn't end there. It in fact merely raises a bigger question, which is: What do we really think is democracy? What do we really think is working or not working in this country?

I said before, in response to Abueva's own survey, that if I were asked myself if I approved of the way democracy worked in this country, I would say no. That is not because I have given up on democracy, that is simply because I do not believe that what is not working in this country is democracy. Not in its fullest sense anyway. I've always said, every time I hear people suggest that we revert back to some kind of iron-fisted rule, preferably the one patterned after Singapore, that we don't need to do that. We can always try democracy first.

What do we really understand by democracy?

Well, we at least know what it is not. It is not martial law. It is not the kind of political order resembling the one Marcos unleashed on Sept. 21, 1972, one that has a president for life, one that has no free elections. But beyond this, we enter into terra incognita, a vast and largely unknown terrain. For most of us, it merely means freedom in the sense of absence of restraint. That is how we understand the bill of rights: It is not being prevented from talking, gathering, worshipping, printing things, expressing ourselves. We do not think of democracy in terms of obligations, duties, responsibilities. Put another way, we think of democracy only as freedom from something, we do not think of it also as freedom for something.

That was drummed home to me some months ago when a political science professor went on to argue that agreeing to having American troops in this country did not infringe on our sovereignty because it was an act of sovereign will by our government. I said then, and I say now, that that is so only in the sense that a youth shows his sense of independence from his parents by taking shabu. Being independent or sovereign or free is not the license to do anything, it is the responsibility to do something good. Or at least positive. Democracy is not the space to act juvenile, it is the latitude to show maturity.

It's our concept of democracy as merely freedom from restraint, or freedom to do anything we damn please, that has been exploited ruthlessly by the elite for their own ends. Creating in the process an order based on spectacular privilege that by no stretch of the imagination can be associated with democracy. Democracy is the freedom to build private armies, weave through traffic with sirens or, worse, police escorts, pocket taxpayers' money. That's the kind of abuse people naturally object to violently, and want replaced by Lee-Kuan-Yew-type inanity. But it is not democracy.

What is not working in this country is not democracy, it is anarchy. It is every man for himself, the devil take the hindmost, which was how James Fallows described our "damaged culture." That was what Marcos used as an excuse to impose martial law, the reign of lawlessness and anarchy, an argument a lot of Filipinos bought, which was why it succeeded to begin with. People had gotten tired of—déjà vu—the bombings, the corruption, the daily signs of a country going to the dogs. And which brought the country faster to the canine species.

The alternative then and now was and is simple enough. Our "democracy" isn't working? Let's try the real one.

Political will and increasing penalty vs jueteng

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IS Interior Secretary Joey Lina for real? Some citizens have been asking this question because his current campaign against *jueteng* looks like banging one's head against the wall—"too quixotic" is the verdict. To which Lina retorts, "That's funny, when one tries to do his job nowadays, that's termed quixotic."

Lina reads this as indication that we have a culture of corruption. But then he has been battling windmills since he was 17 years old in 1969, when he began fighting the dictatorship of Marcos, then on to the street marches in the post—Ninoy assassination days, all the way to the Erap regime when he was one of the very first officials to resign after Chavit Singson's exposé on Erap's role in *jueteng*. "*Ako naman talaga ang aktibista ninyo, hindi ba?*" he asked this columnist, referring to the glory years of the protest movement. Lina sure was, in addition to being our favorite MC at those anti-Marcos rallies because of his booming voice.

* * *

But Lina has no doubt about the rightness of his crusade against *jueteng*. He recalls that when he began fighting it during his first term as governor of Laguna and relieved no less than six provincial commanders for their failure to stamp it out, he was warned that he would lose his reelection bid if he persisted against the gambling lords. But he won a second term with a margin of almost 500,000 votes, "proving that people will support you if you do good."

But there's also the growing thinking among the citizenry that after 50 years, *jueteng* cannot be licked, so why not legalize it? To those who reason thus, Lina's answer is, how come the "legal" forms of *jueteng* introduced in recent years, such as small town lottery (STL) and lotto, failed to stamp out *jueteng*? He noted that STL used the very collectors of *jueteng*, while a hybrid of lotto and *jueteng* became known as "*loteng*," utilizing the last two or four digits of lotto in *jueteng*.

* * *

Lina genuinely believes that it can be eradicated with political will and by increasing the penalties for violators. Right now a fine of P400 to P2,000 is imposed on *jueteng* collectors when caught, while gambling operators are slapped a P6,000 fine or imprisonment of four years and one day to six years. Sen. Robert Barbers has filed a bill seeking to raise the penalties.

The DILG chief doubtless hopes that President Macapagal will continue to support his campaign, especially now that it is reported that she is having misgivings about the treatment by Napolcom, chaired by Lina, of two PNP generals who appear to be among her favorites, Edgardo Aglipay and Avelino Razon. They were among seven police generals recently ordered relieved of their command by Napolcom for failing to curb *jueteng*.

The Catholic hierarchy and big religious sects such as Bishop Eddie Villanueva's Jesus Is Lord are squarely behind Lina's moral crusade, as well as right-thinking local executives like Naga City's Jesse Robredo. I am surprised, though, why civil society is not throwing its support behinds his crusade.

* * *

Lina points out that the *jueteng* lords will try anything, including bribery (when he was still governor, they offered P4 million a month retroactive, which he turned down) and destroying his good name. Right now they're spreading rumors that his brother Bert is the *jueteng* lord of Laguna, but Joey protests that Bert is a legitimate and successful businessman whose interests include being board chair of the licensee of FedEx in the Philippines, a water-purifying business, pioneering portable toilets and other concerns. At one time, they spread rumors that Joey's eldest son was fronting for him in *jueteng*, but at that time the boy was only 14 years old.

* * *

Lina is asked repeatedly why he's zeroing in on *jueteng* when other more pernicious crimes like drugs need more attention. His reply is that apart from the fact that the drug-busting agencies are doing well, *jueteng* is just as pernicious because it propagates the culture of corruption and destroys the work ethic. PNP studies put *jueteng's* gross value at between P10 and P20 billion a year. An average family is said to invest about P18,000 a year in the game. Lina points out that while majority of those who bet are very poor, unfortunately they are exploited by the operators who rig the game to the poor's disadvantage. The bigger the grease money demanded by law enforcers, the dimmer are the poor man's chances of winning, while the profits are all skimmed at the top by the gambling lords.

Moreover, it appears that a number of mayors have become gambling lords and financiers of *jueteng* and the illegal game, like drugs, has become a powerful determinant of electoral contests. It is well-known, for instance, that in the 1998 elections, the nationwide *jueteng* network was mobilized in the Erap campaign, but the irony is that it also spelled his downfall.

* * *

Palace insiders say it's a foregone conclusion that Sen. Blas Ople will assume the DFA portfolio. Just the same, things could still go wrong, considering how fluidity the whole situation is. Thus, some lady officials at the DFA have come out to endorse the appointment of a *kabaro* in the person of former Senate President Pro Tempore Leticia Ramos-Shahani as foreign secretary. Shahani's backers at the DFA reason point out that she held the post of DFA undersecretary during the Cory years and that she had served as ambassador to Romania, apart from the fact that she had been an assistant secretary at the United Nations and a senator for 12 years. The lady diplomats are thrilled at the prospect of having a woman at the helm.

US-European ties at low ebb

NEWS ANALYSIS

Paul Taylor

BRUSSELS—Relations between the United States and Europe have sunk to their lowest ebb since President George W. Bush took office, with sharp differences over a new United Nations war crimes court, the Middle East and trade.

In European eyes, transatlantic tensions have worsened because "unilateralist" hawks have gained ascendancy in the US administration, seeking to tear up the international rule book and sidelining moderates more in tune with European views.

In many American eyes, the Europeans appear wimpish in the "war against terrorism," seek to tie Washington's hands and are complacent about threats from "rogue states" suspected of developing weapons of mass destruction.

"It is time to stop pretending that Europeans and Americans share a common view of the world, or even that they occupy the same world," Robert Kagan of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace wrote in the journal Policy Review. While the United States believed in the right and need to use power to reorder the world, a militarily feeble Europe was "moving beyond power into a self-contained world of laws and rules and transnational negotiation and cooperation," he said.

Two events in the last two weeks have added to the storm clouds over US-European relations.

Bush's long-awaited keynote Middle East policy speech, which tilted toward Israel by conditioning peace efforts on the replacement of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat by leaders "not compromised by terror," exasperated European governments. "The Europeans have not bought into the idea that the problems of Palestine and Iraq are part of the war on terror," said Rosemary Hollis, head of the Middle East program at London's Royal Institute of International Affairs.

And a US attempt to emasculate the new International Criminal Court at birth by demanding immunity for its own soldiers and threatening to veto a UN police mission in Bosnia otherwise, stirred outrage in the European Union.

Even Britain, Washington's closest European ally, has been notably unsupportive of Bush's call to replace Arafat, saying it was up to the Palestinians to choose their leaders, and has firmly opposed the US effort to neuter the ICC. That has led to the rare sight of Washington and London voting against each other in the UN Security Council.

"We think the ICC is the most important advance in international rule of law since the establishment of the UN and we are not going to allow anyone to water down our commitment to the principle," European External Relations Commissioner Chris Patten said.

Adding to the transatlantic turbulence are trade disputes over US steel tariffs, export and farm subsidies, and EU efforts to obstruct the import of genetically modified foods, driven by domestic politics on both sides.

Officially, EU leaders were polite about Bush's Middle East speech, stressing the positive elements of his support for a Palestinian state, talk of ending the Israeli occupation and of freezing Jewish settlements on Arab land. "America is so powerful and touchy now that no one wants to contradict Bush publicly," one EU diplomat said.

Privately, they were dismayed at the absence of any attempt to restart Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, restrain Israeli forces occupying West Bank cities, or back an international peace conference, to which Washington had previously agreed.

"Frustrations are very high. The biggest frustration is not being able to put together elements of a peace process," said a senior European foreign policy official.

Europeans are depressed at seeing Secretary of State Colin Powell, their main partner in Washington, apparently defeated by pro-Israel hardliners such as Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Many fear this presages more problems if Bush gives military action to overthrow Iraqi President Saddam Hussein priority over trying to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which most Europeans see as a far more pressing danger.

"Iraq will be back on the agenda after the US (November congressional) elections," the EU foreign policy official said. The breakdown of talks to put UN weapons inspectors back into Iraq makes that concern more acute.

Bush's Middle East speech whetted hawkish US commentators' thirst for a decisive strike against Saddam. "The president has effectively circumscribed the Israeli-Palestinian distraction. The path he has charted to peace through Palestinian regeneration is a long one. Meanwhile for the president there is, elsewhere, 'the path of action,'" conservative columnist George Will wrote in the Washington Post.

Bush upset many Europeans with early decisions to dump the Kyoto treaty to combat global warming, walk away from arms control treaties and build an anti-missile defense. But Europeans rallied behind him after the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, offering political solidarity, practical help in tracking suspected terrorists and freezing their assets, and military assistance in Afghanistan.

The triumph of high-tech American power in the Afghan war highlighted a growing transatlantic military capability gap. To some, it also illustrated a US "hit and run" approach to security problems, delegating to the Europeans the long-term, costly tasks of peacekeeping and "nation building."

Several European governments dissented when Bush lumped together Iraq, Iran and North Korea in an "axis of evil," which the United States would prevent, by acting alone if necessary, from acquiring nuclear arms.

Diplomats say some now fear being lumbered with "nation building" in Iraq after a US war to oust Saddam. *Reuters*

The Kumintang of Tayabas

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

TAYABAS, the town that replaced Kaliraya as the provincial capital, was a town of great antiquity even in the 19th century. It bordered Lucban, Sariaya and Pagbilao. According to our traveler-author, Senor Guerra, the province was considered the center of purity of the Tagalog race as well as the Tagalog language. (One can just imagine what the Caviteños, Batangueños and Bulakeños would have to say about that.)

It was a very clean town with abundant waters coursing through its streets channeled through banks along the streets. The one called Bamban Grande moved a heavy piece of equipment sitting at its end that was utilized to de-husk palay. These channels with their crystalline waters springing from the slopes of Mt. Cristobal were not only for domestic use but fed hundreds of canals that watered extensive rice terraces. The focus of the unhealthy environment of Tayabas was precisely its wealth; its productive irrigation called *tubiganes*, encouraged the malarial virus that poisoned the atmosphere. If the *tubiganes* disappeared so would the fever, but it would be the ruin of Tayabas whose principal source of wealth was the product of its rice fields.

Malaria struck especially in the months between July and October, months when the soil rests and the roots and other grasses left behind by the harvest of rice decay with the help of the water that was stuck. The malaria of Tayabas was the despair of the science of that day. Young educated medics, accustomed to nursing homes and to studying the ailment at the sickbeds of patients were disconcerted before the strange and deadly development of those fevers. The progress was many times unpredictable. Sometimes it would pass completely unnoticed going from one fever to another without a chance for the quinine to take effect.

Traveling along the extensive *tubiganes* and palm groves that surround Tayabas, you might hear a plaintive guitar and, by following the sound, find the player. You may reach the fence of the house from where the melody emanates, look into the interior filled with people who in silence listen to a native girl sing and dance to the sound of the guitar, following with great care the undulations of her body, the perfect equilibrium of a cup balanced on her head. The silence may be interrupted once in a while by a characteristic shout of joy from the audience and sometimes clapping that resembles Andalucian songs.

If you go up the bamboo steps and take your seat in that reunion, they receive you with fondness, sharing what they have without asking who you are or who brought you. If you understand the language and have spent some time in the country you will understand that it was the *kumintang* that was being sung and danced.

What is the *kumintang*? It is a mixture of all the sad and melancholy chords that are known in the musical staff. The *kumintang* is a ballad composed of sighs; its notes are so many ayes wrenched in the silence of the night from the woman who loves in vain, from the heart that waits, from the exile that longs for home.

The *kumintang* has something of the wild; something th[illegible] one glance at the rustic forests that seem[illegible]. It has traces of ancient Moorish troubadours reminding one of the wails of the gypsy. The *kumintang* was born with the first guitar that was heard in these islands. In this native song all the races that have stepped on her shores have left a trace.

The *kumintang* does not lend itself to city life so that one must look for it in these lost houses, hidden behind green plumes of palms and bamboos.

In this particular house, a feast day is being celebrated. Men and women sit on the floor, waiting while the guitarist temper the double chords of metal of his guitar while a man and a woman waited in readiness, the woman balancing a glass of coconut wine on her head.

With the first notes strummed, the dance begins, reduced to light undulations of the hips accompanied by the short steps with which the dancers approach each other. When they meet, they stop and she sings on a theme that alludes to the person celebrating her feast or directed intentionally toward the person she is dancing with. When the couplet is complete, they both drink and there is an exchange. The man takes the cup and places it on his head and answers the song directed at him, repeating the delicate and tender thoughts in his own fashion.

Who is the author? No one knows. These are songs born in moments of inspiration; the ear picks them up and the memory perpetuates them.

Other popular songs that express tender and delicate sentiments are the *balitao* and the *cutang-cutang*.

There is a word in almost all the *kumintang* that cannot be translated like *Ole!* Or *Chachipe* or the *candit* of Cadiz. Such a word encompasses the world of caresses, of kisses, of sighs. Here are the words heard that long ago day in 1875: "If my lover dies, I would sleep atop his tomb so that his bones would not feel the cold."

Stone flowers and paper dreams

YOUNG BLOOD

Katerina Canillas

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I STARE out of the window as the bus bumps and grinds its way through the rugged roads of our province, the hustle and bustle of city life left behind hours ago. Vast areas of ricefields and a breathtaking landscape have replaced towering skyscrapers and bumper-to-bumper traffic.

I take in the view and savor every detail. I sit transfixed by the thought of solitude. How I miss it! How I yearn for it!

There was a time when the the meaning of "alone" wasn't limited to being by oneself. I used to be alone . with Melay. We had our own little world. A world where dreams were part of our day-to-day existence. A world without boundaries.

Melay and I were almost of the same age. Their family was new in the neighborhood. She lived one house away from ours, which made it easy for us to find each other.

I remember quite clearly how we first met. I was out in the garden one April afternoon. The air was hot and dry as summer afternoons always were in our place. I was almost 10 years old then. I was playing teacher to my doll, when I noticed her. I could see through the gaps of our fence that she was staring at me. Her eyes seemed to lack the sparkle any child her age should have.

I walked right up to her and asked her name. She spoke so softly that I barely heard her. She said it was Melanie but most of the time she was called Melay.

I saw that she had bruises in her arms. I asked her how she got it, but she didn't say a word. She just stared at the doll I was holding, then turned to leave.

I stepped out of our gate and called her. She looked back. I held out my doll in a gesture of giving. Surprised, she didn't move a muscle. I told her she could have it. Shyly, she reached out to take my gift. She looked at me and smiled.

In the days that followed, I would wake up and find a white daisy stuck in our fence. I also saw more of Melay. At first, she was too shy to accept my invitation to come play with me, but after some more prodding, she gave in. We spent mornings and afternoons playing or just lazing around.

Later she confessed that the daisies came from her. She said they had a garden full of it.

It didn't take very long before we became the best of friends. But even though our inhibitions toward each other were long gone, Melay still kept a distance, as if she were trying to protect something. I didn't ask her what was wrong. After all, what serious problem could a kid possibly have? Our lives went on and we had our simple joys.

As summer was drawing to a close, I saw less of Melay each day. I made no effort to find out the reason. I was busy helping my parents pack our things. Our family was about to move to the city in time for the opening of classes.

The last time I saw Melay was during the *despedida* we hosted. Mother invited Melay and her parents, Tito Romy and Tita Del, to come over. Melay was wearing a pink sun dress which was noticeably a few sizes bigger. She looked paler and a lot thinner than when I first saw her. Aside from the bald spots that her ribbon failed to hide, bruises covered most of her body.

It crossed my mind then that something must be really wrong with her. She could barely hold on to the bouquet of daisies she brought along. She said it was for the days she failed to give me a flower.

When we were alone in the den, I asked her if she was sick or something. She said it was nothing.

I knew she was lying.

After finishing dinner, I brought out the chess set Lolo gave me as a going-away present. I asked Melay if she wanted to play even if I didn't know how the game was played. Melay taught me how to play chess that night. She made it seem so easy. She really had a knack for teaching. It was her dream to become a teacher like her mother. I knew she would be a good one.

Or she could have been a good one. She could have been a lot of things. She had it in her to be what she wanted. But fate does have its way. Sometimes dreams remain dreams.

It's been 10 years since I last saw Melay. She passed away a few months after we left. My parents said she had leukemia. It still astonishes me to this day how soon daisies turn into stone flowers in a garden of graves.

My summer vacations in the province have never been the same again. I still grieve the loss of Melay whenever I'm alone, whenever I remember the summer we spent together. That summer when I found a friend who did not only teach me how to play chess, but who also demonstrated that it didn't take maturity to act with courage in the face of sickness and death. Melay gave a new and different meaning to the word "alone." The meaning I have long forgotten.

The sun is just setting in the horizon as I reach our old house. I stand outside our gate for a while. I breathe in the warm air. My eyes search for the sight I used to wake up to many summers ago. Instead of finding a daisy stuck in the fence, I see our garden all abloom with daisies.

So this is the surprise Tito Romy and Tita Del promised me. I guess I won't be by myself after all. I am alone but I will have Melay's memory for company, my memory of summer when dreams and reality were one.

Katerina Canillas, 20, says she studies philosophy for inspiration and writes for diversion.

THEY SAID

What makes GMA mad

"On her reactions to personal attacks, the President does not really get mad about this. She gets mad about delayed programs or commitments that were never fulfilled."

—Acting Press Sec. Silvestre Afable on the President's reaction to being labeled "Ang Pandak"

Unity before all

"I don't know this (Angelina) Matibag but I will not allow anyone to break the fusion that I have done in the Comelec."

—Comelec Chairman Benjamin Abalos, reacting to reports that he would reinstate the dismissed official who faces murder charges

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PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

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LETTERS

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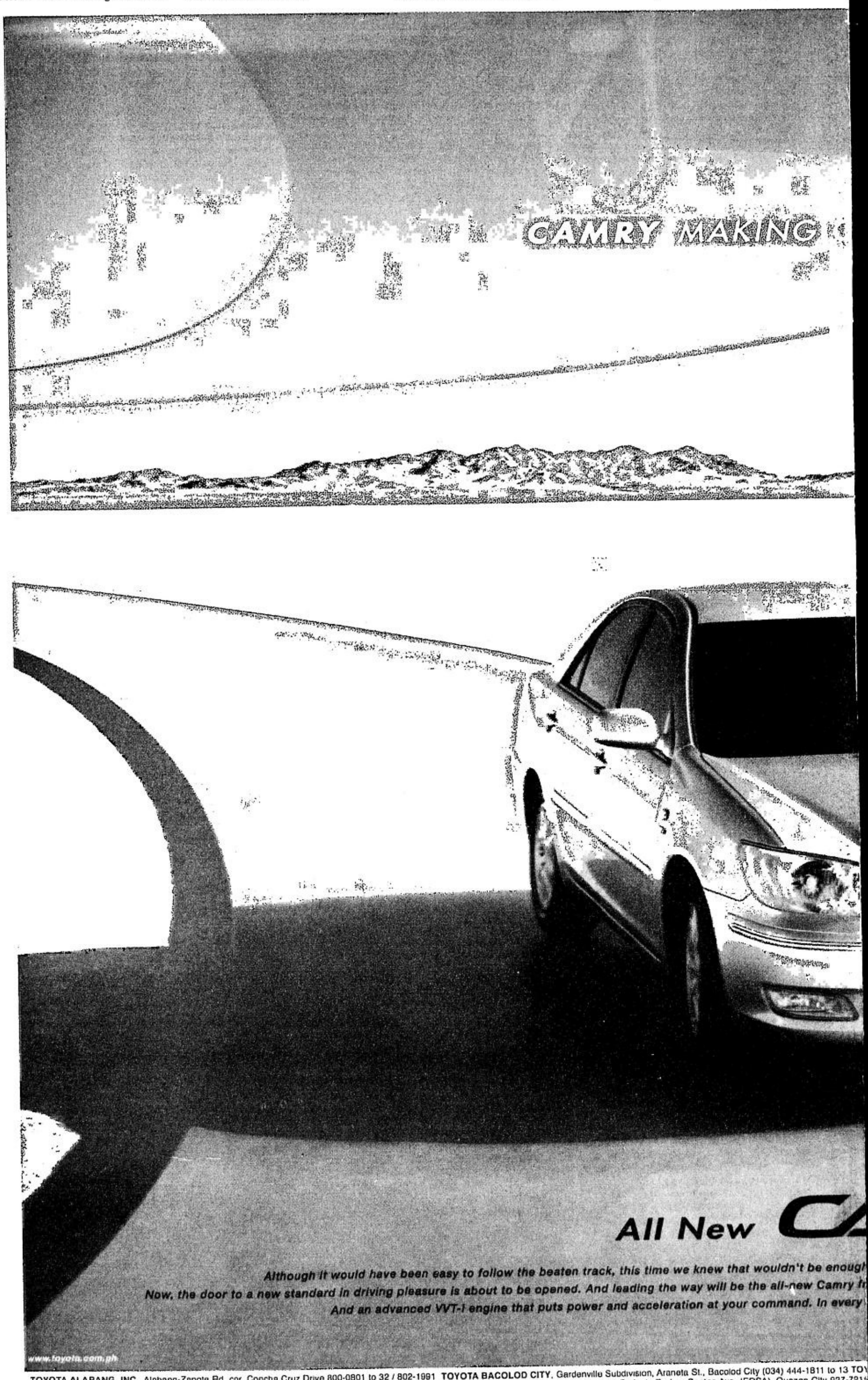

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Corporate philanthropy

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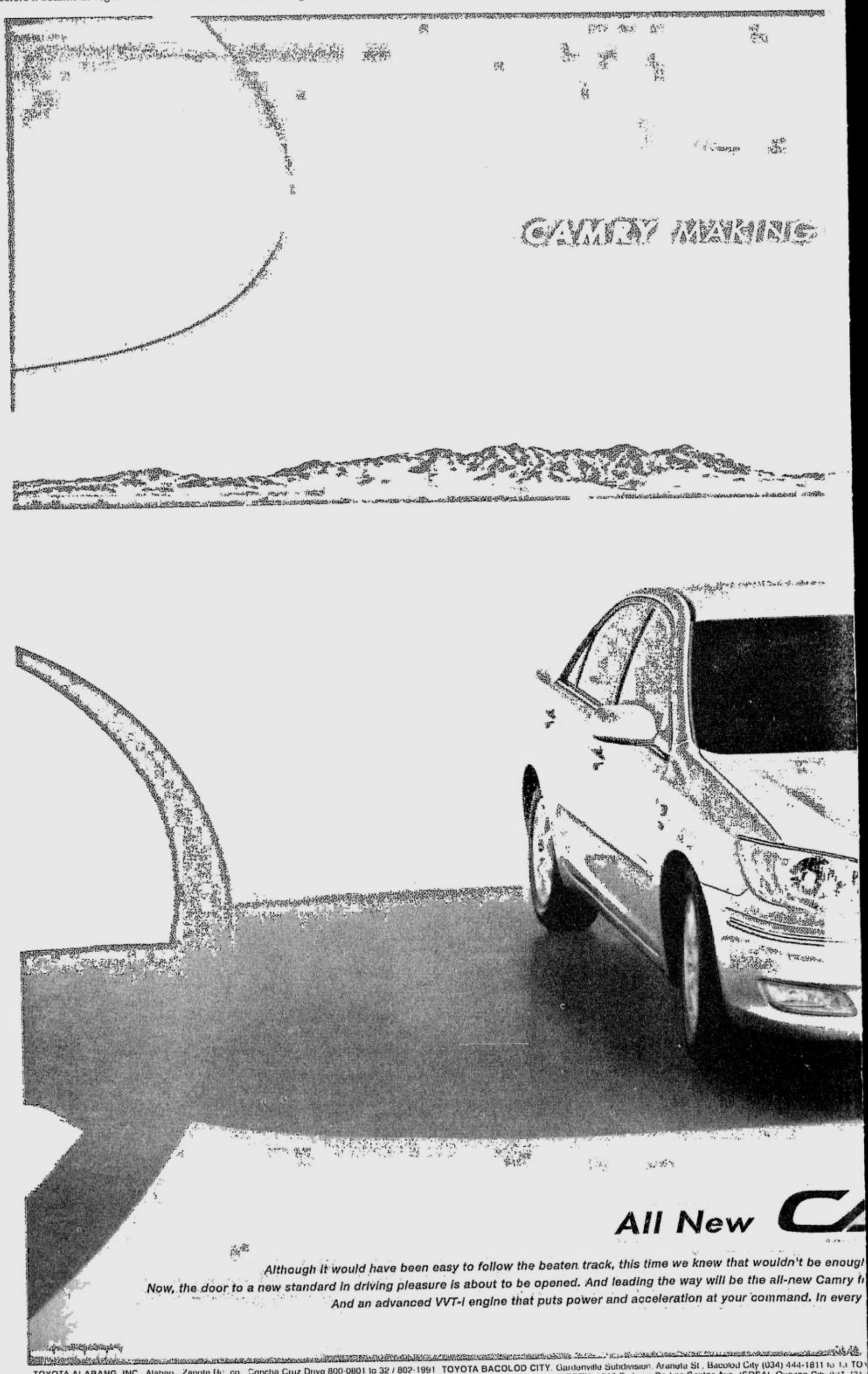


The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

RELATIVES of assassinated Afghan Vice President Haji Abdul Qadir weep upon seeing his coffin arrive at his home in Jalalabad. REUTERS

Karzai eyes foreign help in tracking veep's killers

KABUL, Afghanistan—President Hamid Karzai may turn to foreign experts for help in tracking down the killers of a vice president amid reports Monday that the prominent Pashtun leader's death may have been the result of drug or tribe-related feuds and not a political assassination.

Afghan Vice President Abdul Qadir, a Cabinet minister and governor of the Nangarhar province, was shot dead Saturday along with a son-in-law by two gunmen as he was leaving his office in the Afghan capital.

"Qadir had many enemies among drug dealers and rival warlords in Nangarhar," a relatively wealthy trading and opium poppy-growing region that borders Pakistan, said a senior Western diplomat in Kabul who spoke on condition of anonymity.

His enemies could have been opium dealers in Ghani Khiel, the country's largest opium market in Qadir's home province of Nangarhar. Earlier this year his men confiscated Ghani Khiel's opium, but it is rumored they burned only 20 percent and sold the rest.

Opium dealers were enraged.

Qadir had enriched himself through the trade of opium, some Afghans say. They also said Qadir had a longstanding feud with a tribe leader in Nangarhar province, whose brothers were killed by Qadir's men.

Abdul Khader, a teacher of Islamic or Shariat law at the Kabul university, said, "there are two reasons for Qadir's killing: One could be a private feud he had with somebody."

"The other could be al-Qaida," Khader said. "If it is al-Qaida, it means the other government ministers are also in danger."

Afghan government officials say they are looking at all possible motives.

"All options are there and we are not ruling any of them out or making conclusions before we get the final results of the investigation," said Omar Samat, a foreign ministry spokesperson.

Karzai said Sunday that "if our investigation team fails because of the lack of professional skills and equipment, we will ask foreign friends and international organizations for help."

Karzai said the United States, Germany and the international peacekeeping force all offered help in the investigation. He said the assassination would have "no effect on the government" because Afghans were "determined to build peace and unity in the country."

No one claimed responsibility for the attack.

Afghan state television said two people were detained Sunday at a checkpoint in southern Kabul while riding in the same type of car used by the assassins when they escaped.

They were handed over to a state commission formed by Karzai to investigate the murder, Afghan television said. Ten guards on duty at the Ministry of Works, where Qadir was killed, were arrested Saturday for dereliction of duty, according to Kabul police chief Din Mohammed Jurat. *AP*

US offers aid to devastated Afghan village

KAKARAK, Afghanistan—The United States may station troops in the area where a recent American air strike killed scores of civilians in a move to encourage local development and improve community relations, the commander of US forces said Sunday.

Lt. Gen. Dan K. McNeill flew to this village in Uruzgan prov ince less than a week after an attack that Afghans say killed 48 people, including 25 members of an extended family attending a wedding party. Another 117 people were reportedly wounded in the Monday attack.

The attack, the latest in a series of "friendly fire" mishaps, threatens to sour relations between the Americans and the Afghans and undermine the ongoing war on terrorism in this country.

McNeill's visit was clearly designed to patch up relations rather than get to the bottom of the Monday raid. No mention was made of the air strike.

Instead, the crewcut general sat cross-legged on the floor of a mud compound, sharing orange sodas with tribal elders and the Uruzgan governor and discussing ways US forces could provide humanitarian assistance while at the same time fighting the Taliban and al-Qaida.

McNeill said US forces could be stationed in the district so that international aid workers would feel safe enough to come and help the villagers rebuild their lives after two decades of war.

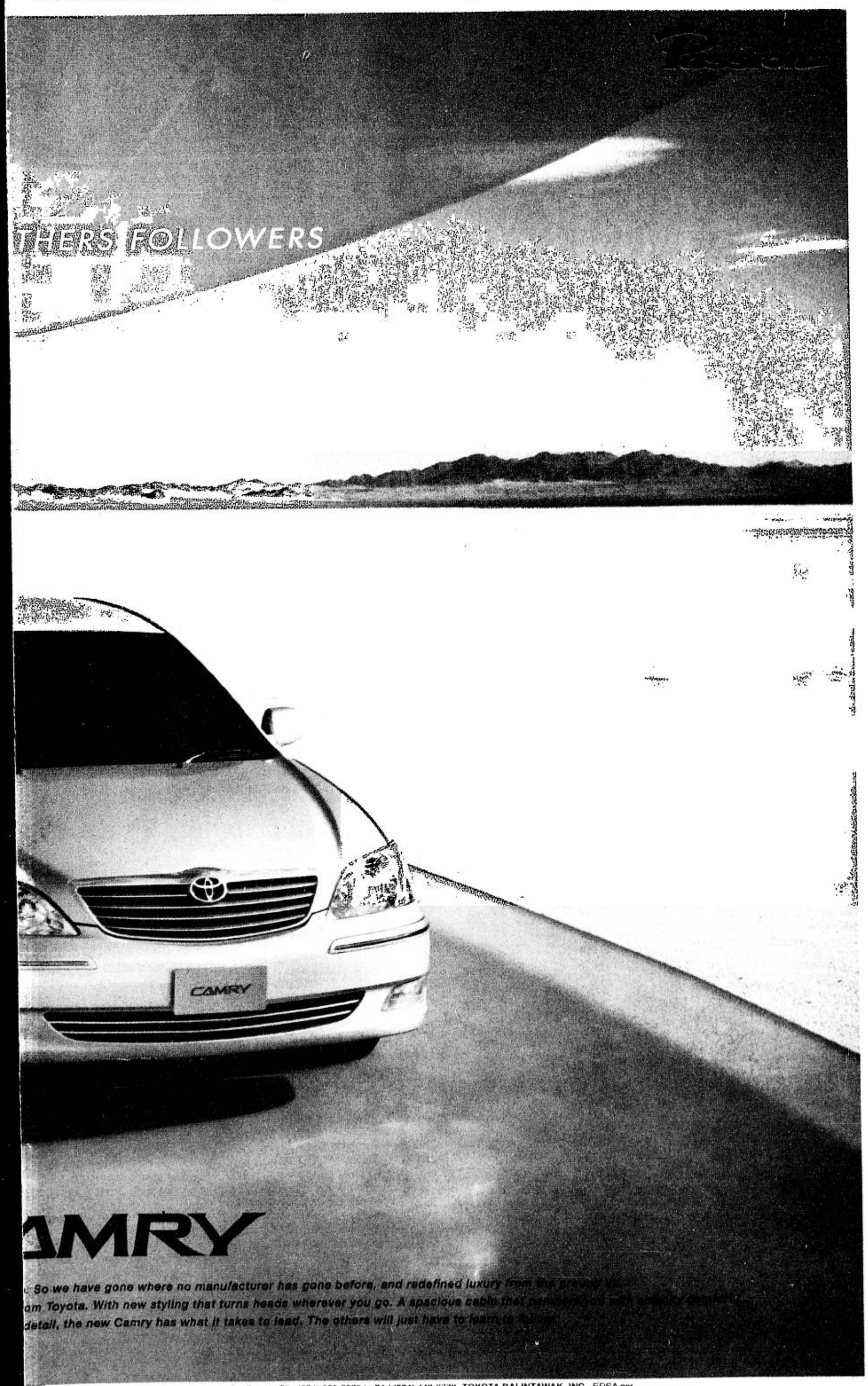
"They asked us if we would put some (US soldiers) here that would stay here, and we're thinking that that's probably in our best interests," McNeill said. "This is an area in which we've worked often so we propose to put some US forces here and then we will probably bring in teams that can help with the liaison to humanitarian assistance."

That's what the village elders wanted to hear.

"Our hospitals are not in good shape," elder Abdul Rahim said. "Our schools are not in good shape. Everything is destroyed. Twenty-three years of war have destroyed everything here."

The mud compound where the general met the elders was located only a few meters from buildings that were damaged in the raid. US officials said an AC-130 gunship attacked after four anti-aircraft guns were seen firing at US planes, including from the compound where the wedding party was hit.

However, the Afghans denied targeting US planes, and American investigators found no trace of any anti-aircraft gun in the compound where the partygoers died. McNeill ordered a more thorough investigation to determine what happened. *AP*



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TOYOTA

10 dead, 1M homeless in India floods

A BANGLADESHI couple transports potable water to their inundated camp 20 km north of Dhaka. AP

PATNA, India—At least 10 people have died in floods in eastern India which have left nearly one million others stranded in submerged villages across three eastern states, officials said on Sunday.

Officials in the Bihar state capital of Patna said 10 people, including a woman and her two sons, drowned in separate overnight accidents in the inundated districts of Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi and Nawada.

At least 300,000 others were homeless or marooned in 250 villages spread across the districts of Madhubani, Sitamarhi, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and Sheohar in Bihar, India's second most populated state, a state administration spokesperson said.

Officials from Bihar's fund-starved flood control department said rain-swollen rivers had either burst their banks and submerged entire villages or were threatening new areas in the impoverished state.

Bihar's major Punpun, Bagmati and Budhi Gandak rivers rose above official danger levels Sunday, the Central Water Commission announced.

Two national highways had been badly damaged in the state, disrupting traffic.

In the northeastern state of Assam, which has also been severely hit by torrential monsoon rains, the Army was called out to help more than 750,000 people stranded by floods.

"The Army has been called out to assist civil authorities in the eastern district of Dhemaji for rescuing marooned villagers," Assam Flood Control Minister Nurzamal Sarkar said.

"Troops will also help distribute essentials and medicines as road links to Dhemaji were snapped six days ago," he said.

Residents of Dhemaji, whose homes have been either washed away or inundated by floodwaters, were sheltering in brick-and-mortar schools and makeshift camps.

The heavy monsoon rains have triggered flash floods in oil-rich Assam with the Brahmaputra river and its tributaries flowing above danger mark at places.

"Nine districts in the state are currently reeling under floodwaters with the Brahmaputra and most of its tributaries flowing at least a meter above the danger level," Sarkar said.

"The flood situation worsened further overnight and engulfed more than 500 villages taking the total number of villages affected to about 18,000," he said.

An Army spokesperson said disaster management squads in speedboats and helicopters were on standby in "vulnerable areas." *AFP*

Heavy rains, diarrhea leave 11 dead in Bangladesh

DHAKA—Monsoon floods and disease killed at least 11 people in Bangladesh as it tried to avert disaster due to heavy rains and floodwaters from neighboring India.

Officials said on Monday that eight people died of diarrhea after drinking floodwater in the southern district of Noakhali, one of the areas worst hit by a week of flooding.

Three people died in other districts, including a child swept to death in the northern Lalmonirhat area, local officials said.

Vast areas of Bangladesh have been inundated by heavy rain and floodwaters, leaving more than half a million people marooned.

Many of Bangladesh's more than 150 rivers originate in the Himalayas and flow through India before reaching the Bay of Bengal.

Bangladesh's authorities ordered disaster officials on "full alert" on Sunday to face flooding in the next few weeks, although weather officials predicted "medium to high intensity" floods this monsoon.

The monsoon usually lasts from July to September. In 1998 more than 3,500 people died and more than two million tons of rice crop were destroyed by the rains and flooding.

Police said on Monday authorities began supplying food and other essential items to flood victims, many of whom are taking refuge on raised ground or the roofs of government buildings.

Water purification tablets and drinking water were distributed to try to stop the spread of diarrhea and other flood-related illnesses.

Weather officials said flooding was spreading with the rush of water from India's Assam and Meghalaya states that are adjacent to Bangladesh.

They said major rivers, including the Meghna, Brahmaputra, Jamuna and Surma, might burst their banks soon.

Officials in western districts of Jessore and Satkhira said unplanned roads without sluice gates were preventing rising waters from flowing away.

"Lack of proper drainage facilities is an ongoing problem in our districts," said a Jessore official.

He said efforts were under way to avert any health problems once the waters had receded.

Agriculture officials said at least 100,000 hectares of rice growing land had been flooded but they had no estimate of losses. ***Reuters***

Palestinians tell Bush: It's Arafat or nobody

BETHLEHEM, West Bank—At a barber shop where men come for a trim during a break in the Israeli curfew, the US president's demand for a Palestinian leader other than Yasser Arafat strikes a chord—of anger and stubborn resistance.

"The people only want Arafat—Arafat or nobody," unemployed laborer Mohammed Yousef Hiraimi, 33, says to nods of agreement among the half-dozen men at the shop.

The mood in this store, its front plastered with posters of young "martyrs" who died challenging Israel's soldiers or killing its citizens, is confirmed by politicians and analysts in the West Bank and Gaza Strip—Palestinians, at least for now, are digging in against what they view as unacceptable US interference.

Even Arafat's critics—and there are many—say they would rather keep him in power than buckle to US President George W. Bush's demand that he be replaced with a leadership "not compromised by terror."

If any such alternative leadership exists, it has yet to make its existence publicly known.

Arafat's political weakness is apparent: Palestinians gave him an approval rating of only 35 percent in May, and his control of militants or even his own lieutenants is questionable. Last week, it took Arafat two days of wrangling to fire an unwilling security chief.

Yet despite accusations that his Palestinian Authority is ineffectual and corrupt, Arafat at 73 is still revered by many as a guerrilla hero who for almost four decades kept the Palestinian cause on the world's agenda.

Although Palestinians speak relatively openly of their frustrations with their leadership, many are reluctant to directly criticize Arafat.

Palestinian analysts say the new rallying around Arafat is genuine, and doubt any strong competition will emerge in January elections, lest it be seen as divisive at a time when Palestinians are under siege. Arafat is likely to dismiss more aides and shepherd new faces into the legislature. But whether that will satisfy the US administration isn't clear.

"His opponents stand alongside him because they feel that defending him is defending the national dignity," said Ali Jarbawi, a political scientist at Bir Zeit University near Ramallah.

A poll by the Jerusalem Media and Communications Center, a Palestinian research group, showed only 47.5 percent of Palestinians said they expected Arafat to be reelected. Arafat was identified by 25 percent as the personality they trusted most, while 24.5 percent said they don't trust anyone. The margin of error was 3 percentage points.

But that was before Bush's speech. Palestinians expect the next polls to show a strengthened Arafat. ***AP***

Most gay HIV carriers unaware they're infected

BARCELONA, Spain—A study of young gay and bisexual men in major US cities found that more than three-quarters of those infected with HIV—including 91 percent of blacks—were unaware they had the AIDS virus.

The finding, presented Monday during the first day of scientific sessions at the 14th International AIDS Conference, is a worrying sign that the epidemic could be in danger of accelerating again in the United States.

The study indicated that ignorance of infection among HIV positive gay and bisexual men was twice as common as previous estimates, which were based on HIV tests results of people entering the military or jobs that require screening.

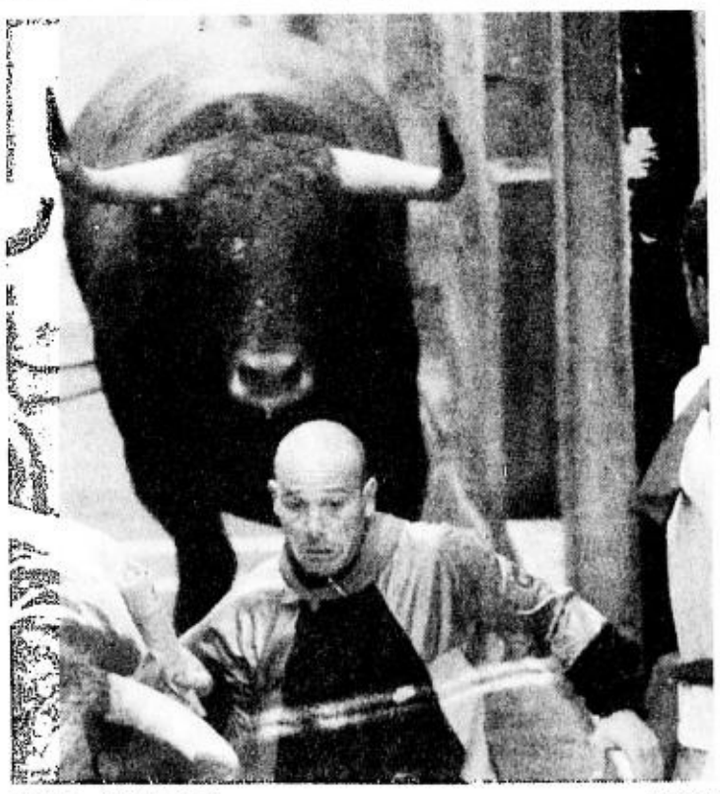
Those have indicated that one in three people were unaware they were infected, said Phill Wilson of the African American AIDS Policy and Training Institute in Los Angeles, who was not connected with the research.

The survey, conducted by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "helps explain, at least in part, why many young gay and bisexual men in the United States are becoming infected," said Duncan MacKellar, who led the study.

"Many gay and bisexual men have HIV, most do not test frequently and . . . are engaging in behaviors that can transmit the virus," he added.

Researchers surveyed 5,719 men aged 15 to 29 at dance clubs, bars, health clubs and street locations in Baltimore, Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, New York and Seattle from 1994 to 2000.

Of the 573 who tested HIV positive, 440—or 77 percent—had not known they were infected with the virus. Around half of those men hadn't been tested in the past year and half were having anal sex without condoms, said MacKellar. ***AP***



BULL CHARGE REUTERS

A runner scrambles as the pack of fighting bulls charge up Estafeta Street in central Pamplona during the second bull run of the San Fermin festival on July 8. The run was timed 2 minutes, 51 seconds.

Taiwanese Protestant minister apologizes on TV

TAIPEI—Sobbing and whimpering in a televised news conference, a Protestant minister apologized Monday for sexually molesting three teenage girls who were sent by their parents to his rehabilitation center.

"I made a mistake," Lin Chin-you said with tears rolling down his cheeks. "I was wrong. I apologize to the children whom I have helped and also hurt."

"I beg for the three kids' forgiveness. I beg for the society's forgiveness," Lin said as he removed a cross on a necklace from his neck.

Lin, 48, was convicted last week of having oral sex with the girls, aged between 14 and 16, during a period of six months until the girls' parents found out last year. He was sentenced to four years in jail.

Lin said he would not appeal. "I accept the legal punishment," he said.

Lin has set up several rehabilitation centers for alcoholics, drug addicts, abused women and school dropouts. ***AP***

Nightclub fire kills 20

JAKARTA—A fire that gutted a popular nightclub in Indonesia's South Sumatra province has killed at least 20 people, police said Monday.

The blaze started late Sunday and torched four floors of a large karaoke bar in the provincial capital of Palembang, Capt. Arum Prioyono of the local police said.

Palembang is an industrial city about 400 km northwest of Jakarta.

The building, located in a busy downtown shopping area, had no proper fire exits and the only elevator was broken, Prioyono said.

Several of the victims died after jumping from windows on the upper floors to escape the flames, he said.

Two survivors are being treated at Palembang General Hospital, while 18 others who suffered lighter injuries have been released, officials said.

Fire fighters extinguished the fire on Monday morning, Prioyono said, adding that they expected to discover more bodies after searching through the building.

"But thick smoke is still preventing them from entering the building," he said. "We fear there are other bodies as dozens of people are still missing."

Prioyono said investigators believed the blaze was caused by an electrical short circuit.

Rescuers blasted through the wall of the club to allow dozens of people trapped inside to escape from the burning building.

Operators of karaoke bars, cinemas, internet cafes and other entertainment businesses in Indonesia frequently ignore fire safety rules or fail to provide emergency exits on the premises. ***AP***

Chavez foes ask Carter to witness march

CARACAS, Venezuela—Opposition leaders urged former President Jimmy Carter on Sunday to extend his peace mission here so he can witness a march against President Hugo Chavez and hopefully prevent violence.

Thousands of anti-government protesters are expected to march on the Miraflores Presidential Palace on Thursday. Chavez supporters often entrench themselves outside the palace to repel protesters.

Carter, who arrived Saturday at Chavez's invitation and planned to leave the day before the march, is seeking to salvage reconciliation talks between the leftist government and its opposition. The government-sponsored dialogue began after an April coup that briefly ousted Chavez.

Carter met Sunday with Vice President Jose Vicente Rangel, media owners, labor bosses and Roman Catholic Church leaders. He was to meet with Chavez later Sunday, state news agency Venpres reported.

Should Carter stay for the march, "violent pro-government groups won't dare attack men and women on the streets demanding justice, peace and democracy," eleven opposition parties said in an open letter to Carter published Sunday in El Universal.

Labor and media leaders who met with Carter said the American offered to have members of his team stay for the march. Carter was declining comment until his visit ended.

US Ambassador Charles Shapiro urged Venezuelans to accept help either from Carter or from the Organization of American States. ***AP***

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Western Visayas will experience monsoon rains. The rest of the country will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Monsoon Rains	Hi 28°	Lo 23°
Baguio	Monsoon Rains	Hi 19°	Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Monsoon Rains	Hi 33°	Lo 25°
Laoag	Monsoon Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Monsoon Rains	Hi 25°	Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Monsoon Rains	Hi 21°	Lo 25°
Legazpi	Monsoon Rains	Hi 29°	Lo 26°
Calapan	Monsoon Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Monsoon Rains	Hi 28°	Lo 23°
Roxas	Monsoon Rains	Hi 33°	Lo 26°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 35°	Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33°	Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/09/02

ROUNDUP

LTFRB head cleared

SAN FERNANDO CITY—The office of the Ombudsman has cleared the regional director of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board of charges of grave misconduct because of an alleged extortion try in February this year. It approved a recommendation of the provincial prosecutor's office to dismiss for lack of evidence the administrative case filed against LTFRB Regional Director Bruno Patricio by one Irineo Laurean of Binalonan, Pangasinan. Patricio was arrested by National Bureau of Investigation agents on Feb. 7 in his office during an entrapment operation that yielded marked money worth P1,000 allegedly brought to him by Laurean.

Gia Damaso-Dumo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

NBI agents face charges

SANTIAGO CITY—Two confidential agents of the National Bureau of Investigation are facing murder and attempted murder charges for the killing of a 15-year-old student and the wounding of two others here. Supt. Renato Turingan, city police director, said Loreto Joaquin and Ambrosio Crispin were charged before the city prosecutor's office with the fatal shooting of Andrew Ancheta and the wounding of the teenager's two companions in Barangay Victory Norte on July 3.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Under calamity state

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Provincial officials have declared Nueva Vizcaya under a state of calamity due to the adverse effects of drought. In a resolution, the provincial board said the drought has brought damages to the province's agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forest resources worth P1.3 billion. In May, the intense heat caused forest fires in 11 towns, burning P1.2 billion in forest products.

Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

3 killed in ambush

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Three people, including a jail guard, were killed and five others were hurt on Tuesday when armed men fired at a passenger jeepney in Tabuk, Kalinga. Police identified the victims as jail guard Ronald Concepcion and passengers Astre Badtungol and Restie Talamayan. Reports said Concepcion and fellow jail guards Enrique Mape and Mariano Samonte were escorting inmate Willy Sagasag back to the Cagayan provincial jail here when the passenger jeepney they were riding in was ambushed in Barangay Bulanao. The suspects, police said, were believed to be companions of Sagasag who staged the attack to recover him. Sagasag fled with the suspects, police said.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

1 dies in highway mishap

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—The 15-km MacArthur Highway stretch from this city to the boundary of Angeles City, claimed another life on Friday, bringing to 13 the number of victims of vehicular accidents that occurred there from January to June. Police said the latest victim was Noel Manalo, 39, said to be a *jueteng* collector. He was the 13th to have died in that stretch after Tribune correspondent Chris Grutas on May 17. Police said Manalo was crossing the highway when a van bumped him.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

3 slain in clash

COTABATO CITY—Three people were killed when Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) rebels clashed with police operatives in Barangay Lagandang in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat on Thursday. Supt. Abubakar Mangelen, Sultan Kudarat police director, said they were serving a warrant of arrest against Usop Olimpain alias Commander Jack of the MNLF when his followers fired upon them. Olimpain was being sought for the death of at least two farmers in the same village last week.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Cop wounded in gunfight

DAVAO CITY—A policeman was wounded when he figured in a gunfight with a suspected drug pusher during a buy-bust operation here. PO2 Ferdinand Norandante, of the Sta. Ana police precinct, suffered a bullet wound in the right thigh after engaging in a gunfight with Daraman Dialo, a resident of Barangay 31-D, here. Norandante was about to conduct a buy-bust operation, along with PO1 Nilo Divinagracia, when the shooting occurred. Dialo fled after the shooting and is now being hunted by police. Chief Insp. Fe Basan, Sta. Ana precinct chief, said Dialo was already charged with attacking the law enforcer.

Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Federal army holds presscon, insists on 3 federal states

COTABATO CITY—The man who claimed to be the spokesperson of the Indigenous People's Federal Army (IPFA), the group that was allegedly behind the series of bomb scares in Metro Manila and in Mindanao a few months ago, appeared for the first time before reporters in an undisclosed place in Maguindanao on Sunday.

But the self-proclaimed IPFA spokesperson, whose monicker is "Fedreb," short for Federal Revolution, emerged along with some 1,000 heavily armed followers in camouflage uniforms.

"Perhaps you're looking for Fedreb?" he asked reporters, who were interviewing him in front a backdrop of an IPFA black-red-white banner and combat-ready followers surrounding him.

"These people here, who are members of IPFA, are all identified as Fedreb because they are all advocates of revolution for tri-people federalism," said the spokesperson.

"We move as a collective group; they chose me as their spokesperson," declared Fedreb, who declined to reveal his true identity despite the reporters' insistence.

In the case of written statements or press releases, Fedreb said, the authorized signatory was "Adreb," which means Advocate of Revolution.

In a press statement, Adreb berated past and present administrations for their "partisan politics" and failure to address the needs of the people, especially of the *lumads*.

"There is no political will in all branches of government, no genuine reforms (to speak of) but all partisan political agenda are the ones being given emphasis," Adreb said.

He said their claim to recover their ancestral land fell on deaf ears. "We are being harassed, as the government tries to dish out black propaganda and (the so-called) trial by publicity, and the people are being deceived."

"If they (government) continue to push us against the wall, a social volcano will erupt," the IPFA spokesperson said referring to the government's alleged political bias.

IPFA, he said, is demanding that the government amend the Constitution and establish a federal system of government for Christians, Muslims and *lumads*.

He said genuine political reforms in the country could be achieved if a Tribal Federal State for the Indigenous People, the Federal Islamic State for the Muslims and a Federal State for the Christians were created.

Fedreb said as much as possible his group, which he claimed gets the support of Moro rebel leaders, would like to resolve the problem through peaceful means.

He proposed a Constitutional Convention that would lead to a tri-people federalism.

Asked about the whereabouts of Roger Adamat, alleged IPFA leader who was blamed for the bomb scare that caused people from Mindanao and the National Capital Region to panic, Fedreb said Adamat was working toward the same objective but the Fedreb has no knowledge of his presence.

NCR police said a nationwide manhunt has been ordered for Adamat, but local police said they have yet to receive a warrant for his arrest. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Agency says it can't meet targets

KIDAPAWAN CITY—An official of the National Commission for the Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) said his office could not meet President Macapagal-Arroyo's target of distributing 50 certificates of ancestral domain title (CADT) and another 50 certificates of ancestral land title (CALT), due to lack of funds.

The target was part of the President's State of the Nation Address last year.

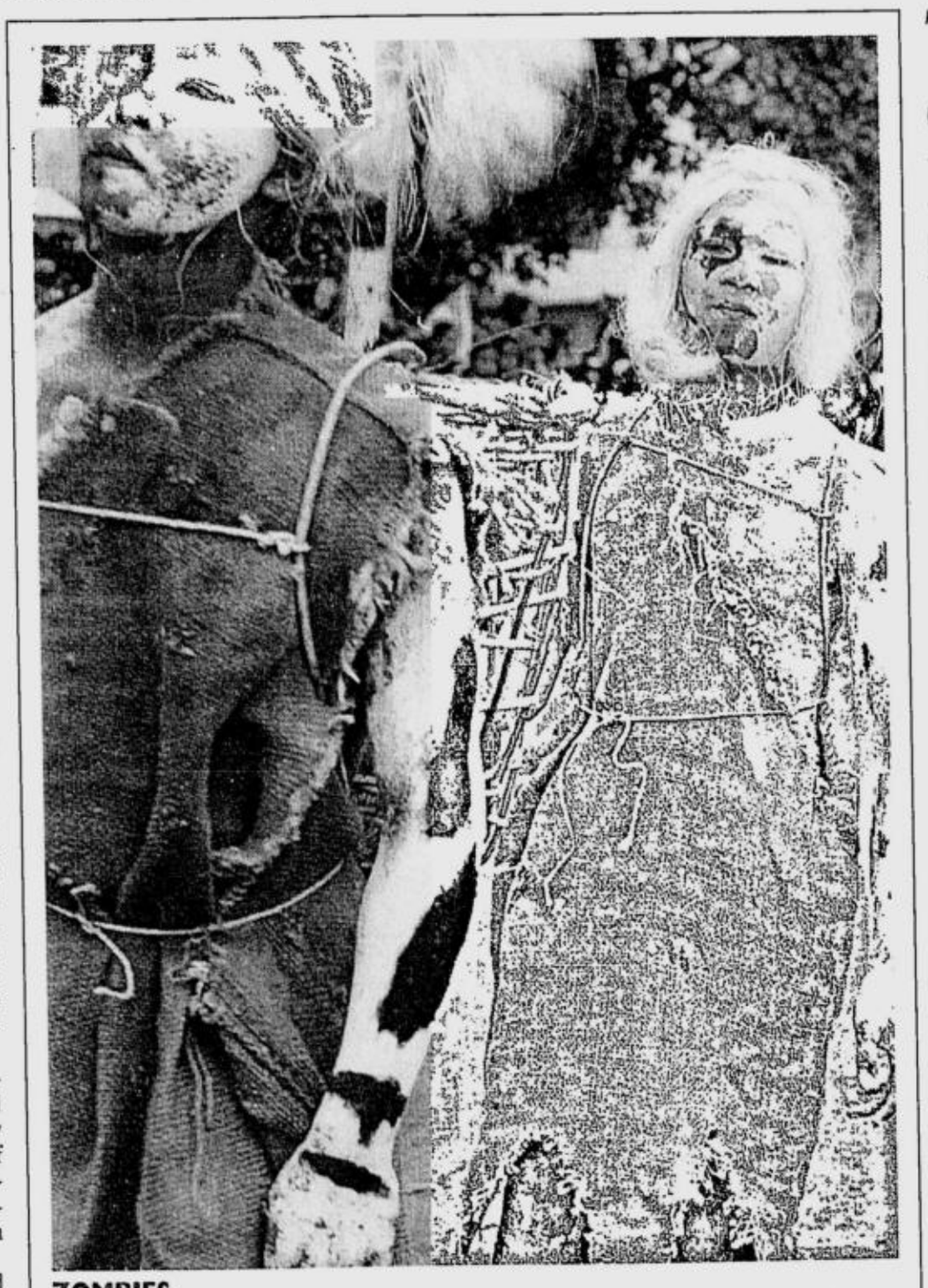
NCIP Commissioner Datu Edtami Mansayagan said the commission only has P7 million allotted for community services out of its P408-million annual budget. He said there were no funds for distributing land titles.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had expressed dismay over the failure of the NCIP in distributing titles to indigenous peoples in the country.

Mansayagan said the President's target was trimmed to just a few titles covering some 100,000 hectares of land from the earlier target of 800,000 hectares.

But the distribution was still halted after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), one of the agencies funding the program, suspended the release of the funds.

"It's really hard for us because funds are from other (government) agencies," Mansayagan said. *Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



ZOMBIES
Natives of Leyte paint their bodies and faces to reconstruct the appearance of early residents whom Spanish conquerors saw. The painting of the bodies and faces was part of the celebration of the Pintados Festival in the province. JOHNNY VILLENA

Trader meted death for Cokin kidnap-slaying

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—An Ilonggo businessman was meted the death penalty yesterday after he was found guilty of masterminding the kidnap-slaying of Bacolod-based businesswoman Roberta Cokin in 1995.

The death verdict on Ronaldo Porquez, 50, drew loud applause from Cokin's relatives during the promulgation of the sentence inside the sala of Regional Trial Court Judge Roberto Chiongson.

The court also ordered Porquez to pay the heirs of Cokin P50,000 in indemnity.

Teresita Cokin, the victim's sister, was in tears when she told the INQUIRER that their family's desire for justice was finally attained.

Porquez hugged his wife, Fe, who also wept after hearing the ruling. The businessman called Chiongson's ruling unfair, saying the judge had already decided on the case even before his trial started.

The promulgation came a week before the seventh year anniversary of Cokin's kidnapping. The ruling is subject to automatic review by the Supreme Court.

Cokin, 70, was kidnapped in Bacolod on July 15, 1995. The kidnappers demanded P2 million in ransom. But law enforcers foiled the pay off in Bacolod and arrested bagman John Mamarion, a former rebel.

Cokin's decomposing body was found on Aug. 7, 1995, in a shallow grave in Barangay Palaypay, Anilao town, Iloilo.

Autopsy reports showed that Cokin was tortured before she was killed. She was handcuffed when found. Her body also bore several stab wounds.

Aside from Mamarion, three other suspects were later arrested. They were Maj. Rolando Maclang and his alleged mistress Juliet Harisco and Airman Second Class Charlito Domingo.

On Oct 7, 1998 Chiongson found the four guilty of kidnap-for-ransom and sentenced them to death.

Porquez was not sentenced along with them because he was arrested only on March 30, 1999 in a safe house in Jaro District, Iloilo.

The court issued in 1996 an arrest warrant against Porquez, who then carried a P200,000 reward on his head.

During the hearing, Amado Gale, accused turned-state witness, testified that Porquez was the mastermind in the kidnapping of Cokin.

In his decision, Chiongson said Porquez who owned a transportation firm in Iloilo tried to prove that he was well off financially prior to and during the time of the kidnapping.

"He implied that he would not risk his life or his business for the ransom," the judge said.

But Chiongson said that the evidence submitted by Porquez himself showed that the businessman was in dire need of money in 1993 and in 1994.

2 Benguet towns gear for war on taxes

BAGUIO CITY—Tuba and Itogon towns in Benguet appear headed for a court battle over a mining corporation's national wealth taxes estimated at P22 million a year.

Claiming that the operations of Philex Mining Corp. are in its territory, the Tuba town council recently passed a resolution informing the budget department and the Bureau of Internal Revenue of its decision to bolt from a 1996 50-50 tax sharing deal with Itogon.

Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas tried to broker a deal between the towns to resolve the dispute.

But Tuba officials demanded 100 percent of the mines' taxes after the Bureau of Mines and Geological Sciences (BMGS) certified that the mines' actual extraction site is in Tuba.

Philex works on the disputed areas since its extraction site is in Tuba's Barangay Camp 3 while its milling and tailings dam are in Itogon's Barangay Ampucao.

Itogon Mayor Mario Godio protested, saying that mining operations do not only involve extraction.

"My town hosts the milling and tailing dams operations of Philex so we are also entitled to the taxes," he said. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

CHR to probe complaint of neglect vs hospital personnel

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) is stepping into the complaint of a mother whose baby fell on the floor immediately after emerging from her womb.

"We have no comment on that but we will investigate," Rito Montes Jr., CHR Bohol special investigator, told the INQUIRER.

He said his office would verify reports that the infant, christened as John Harold Aparilla, was no longer crying normally.

The infant fell on the floor after his mother gave birth to him last May 30 at the government-owned Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital (GCGMH) in this city.

His parents, Juan and Diosdada Aparilla, brought him home in Barangay Poblacion, Dagohoy town.

The boy's mother, Diosdada Aparilla, 37, filed a complaint of neglect of duty and incompetence against four hospital personnel before the Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas.

Named in the complaint were Doctors Sarita Matabilas and Rachelle Loja, medical technologist Maria Lhovella Alabata and nurse Virgilia Aldehuesa.

Aparilla said her baby fell on the floor when the doctors and personnel neglected her as she gave birth while crying for help.

During a meeting called by Dr. Nenita Po, GCGMH chief of hospital, the hospital personnel said they were attending to other important matters when Diosdada gave birth.

Matabilas said she admitted Diosdada, who was sent to the labor room with a nurse.

Loja responded to the hysterical Diosdada when the baby already fell on the floor. She said she had just performed an emergency caesarian operation when she attended to Diosdada.

Aldehuesa, the nurse, said she was attending to a baby delivered by caesarian when Diosdada was on labor.

Alabata said she saw Diosdada go to the delivery room by herself.

A report prepared by Dr. Kismet Mercuno, head of the GCGMH Pediatric Medicine's neonatology section, described it as "precipitate delivery," saying Diosdada's giving birth was normal.

It said while Diosdada was unattended, the baby's cord was severed and the baby fell on the floor, but "had a good cry."

Classes still suspended; typhoon death toll up

From page A1

southern Japan.

Another tropical depression off Batanes will be called "Hambalos" if it develops into a typhoon, according to weather bureau chief Nilo Prisco.

The weather bureau's advisory at 4 p.m. said the tropical depression was 400 km west northwest of Basco. It has peak winds of 55 kph.

An NDCC report said two men drowned in separate incidents in Hermosa, Bataan and Malabon, while two others, identified as Arlene Digo, 11, and Josua Digo, 8, died in a landslide in San Mateo, Rizal.

A barangay chair died in a vehicular accident on Halsema Highway in Tublay, Benguet.

Two others, identified as Arturo Defensor, 55, and Alvino Bautista, 40, drowned in separate incidents in the Suage River in Janiuay, Iloilo and in Nasugbu, Batangas.

In Apalit, Pampanga, police said Brian Gajudo, a poultry farm worker, was electrocuted when he touched a live electric rod used for killing rats.

The NDCC said the number of injured South Koreans rose to 23, up from seven. The Koreans were part of the group on board the *banca* "April Boy II," which capsized and sank off Gamao Point in Tingloy, Batangas, on Saturday.

The boat was carrying 28 South Koreans, not 23 as earlier reported, two of whom were still missing.

Vice Adm. Reuben Lista, Coast Guard chief, said charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide were filed against Ricarte Garcia, owner and operator of April Boy II.

"It was clear that the boat sailed despite the Coast Guard's notice for small craft not to (leave port) due to the bad weather," Lista said.

Engine trouble

A passenger ship, the MV Cotabato Princess, which has 351 passengers and 81 crew members, developed engine trouble off Romblon while on its way to Iloilo. A tugboat, the MV Stanford, is towing the ship to Batangas.

Officials of the Office of the Civil Defense in the Cordillera said Felix Tayab, 65, barangay chair of Caponga in Tublay, died while driving an ambulance.

Tayab braved the strong rains to take a village mate to the Baguio General Hospital, 30 km from Tublay, on Sunday, but met the accident while he was on his way home.

Reports said Tayab was about 100 meters from his house when the road's lane gave way, causing the ambulance to fall into a ravine.

At least 12 villages in Hermosa in Bataan were under three feet of floodwater on Monday.

Central Luzon

The OCD reported more than a hundred flooded villages in Bataan, Bulacan, Zambales and Pampanga. Fifty-eight villages were reported to be in waist-deep floodwaters in Pampanga.

At least 238 families or nearly 1,000 people were evacuated, reports from the DSWD said.

Bulacan and Bataan, with 64 and 56 inundated villages, respectively, were the most affected provinces in Central Luzon.

Floods affected at least 84 villages in Bulacan. These were in the towns of Meycauayan, Marilao, Obando, Bocaue, Malolos, Guiguinto, Pulilan, Calumpit, Bulacan, Hagonoy, Baliuag and Balagtas.

Portions of the MacArthur Highway in the province were not passable to light vehicles, reports said.

In Zambales, Gov. Vicente Magsaysay said 100 of 145 villages were flooded. He expressed concern because villages not usually flooded in recent years were submerged during the past three days. The villages were in Subic, Castillejos, San Marcelino and San Antonio towns.

The Central Luzon Center for Emergency Aid and Rehabilitation (Concern) reported that a dike in Botolan burst on Sunday, forcing almost 300 families to flee their homes.

Tornado

A baby tornado struck the village of Bangan in Botolan Sunday, damaging houses and toppling power posts and trees. One resident was hurt.

Heavy floods were also reported in the towns of Iba, Sta. Cruz, Masinloc, San Felipe and Botolan.

In Pampanga, agriculture officials reported that rains damaged more than 300 hectares of rice fields in six villages in Candaba.

Rogelio Panzo, Tarlac agricultural officer, said floods affected 60 percent of the province's recently planted rice land, resulting in at least P26 million in losses.

Minalin Mayor Edgar Flores said rampaging waters with lahar breached by 200 meters the Bulac section of the San Francisco earth dike on Monday morning.

Disaster response officials said the most affected villages in the province were in Guagua and Macabebe towns, where floodwaters rose to five feet.

In Tarlac, Gov. Jose Yap activated local disaster coordinating councils in 17 towns and Tarlac City.

More than 300 residents in Barangay Florida in Camiling town were evacuated to a bunkhouse due to rising floodwaters.

In La Paz town, houses of 25 families in Barangays Bantog and Paludpud were submerged by three-foot high floodwaters. An undetermined number of families in Barangays Balanoy, Macalong and Lara, all in La Paz, were also affected.

Swollen rivers

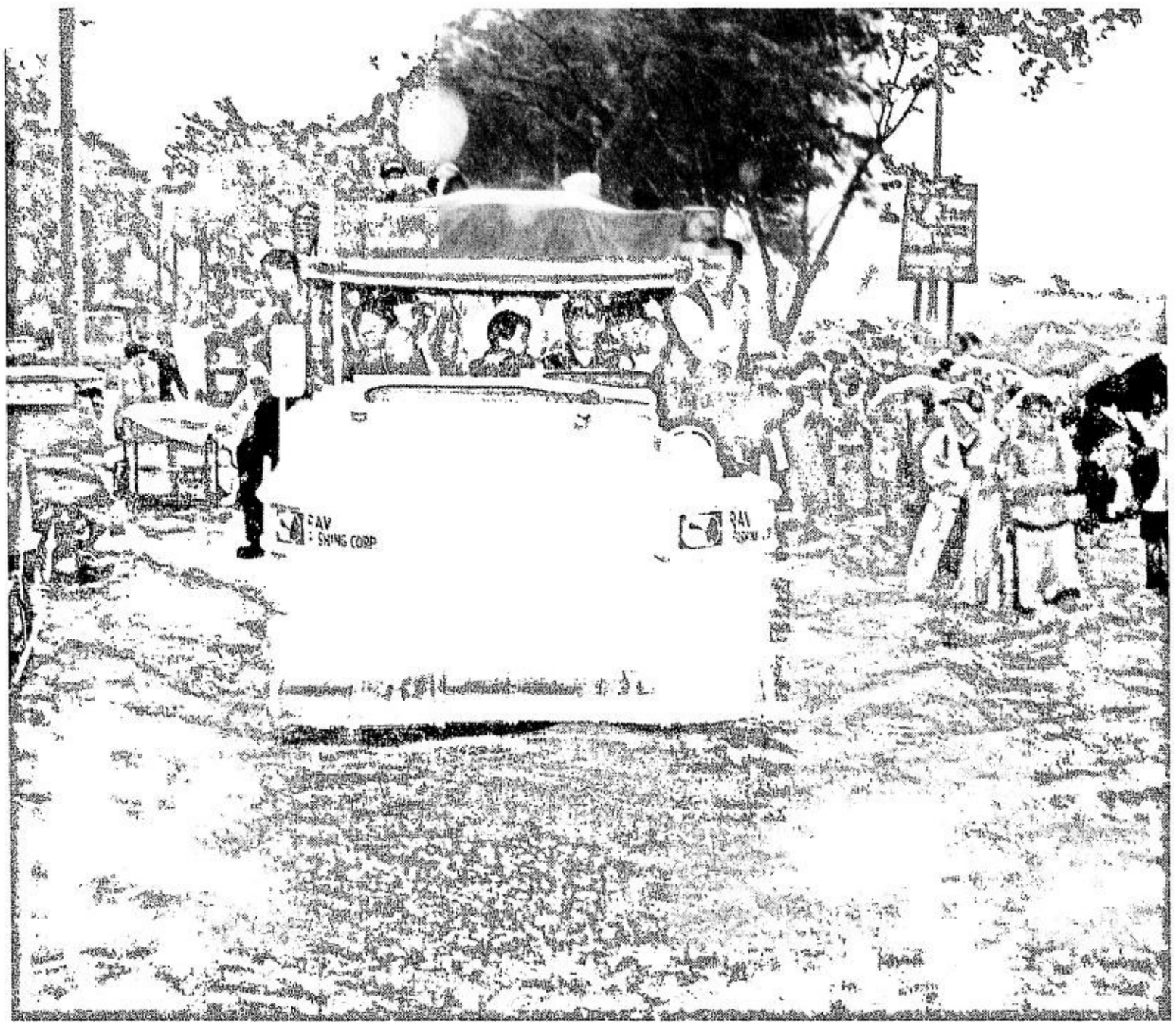
Search and rescue teams were sent to at least three remote barangays in Bamban town after the Sacobia River overflowed. The O'Donnel River in Capas town also overflowed, isolating several villages there.

The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority search and rescue team was sent to flooded areas of Bataan, particularly Hermosa and Dinalupihan, to help in the evacuation of some 400 families.

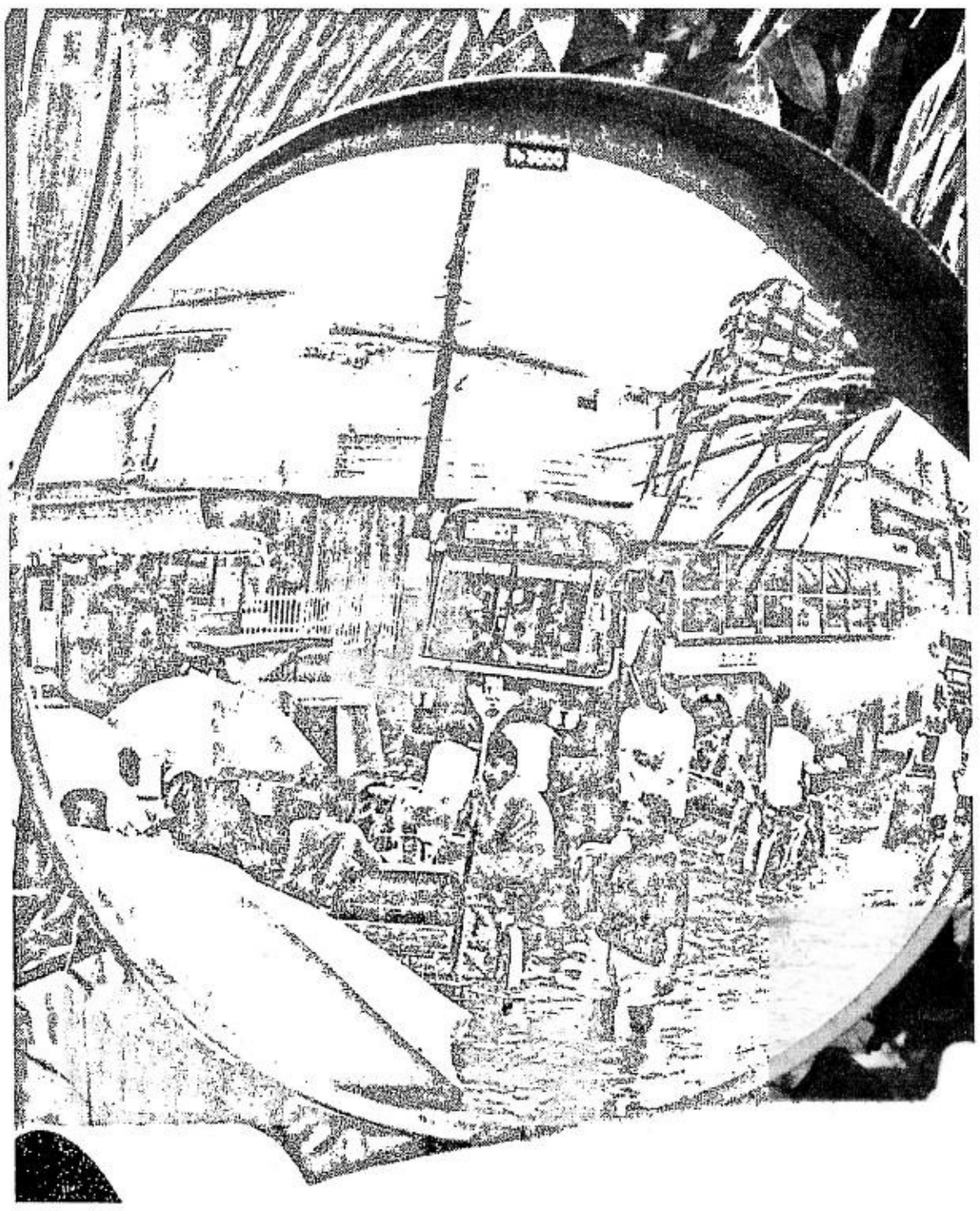
Felicito Payumo, SBMA chair, ordered the release of 12,000 bags of confiscated imported rice for distribution to flood victims. He said the rice would be turned over to the DSWD in all affected provinces and some cities in Metro Manila.

In spite of floods in at least 10

CLASSES/ A15



PRESIDENT Macapagal, on board an amphibious military vehicle, visits the flooded areas in Malabon and Valenzuela City. EDWIN BACASMAS

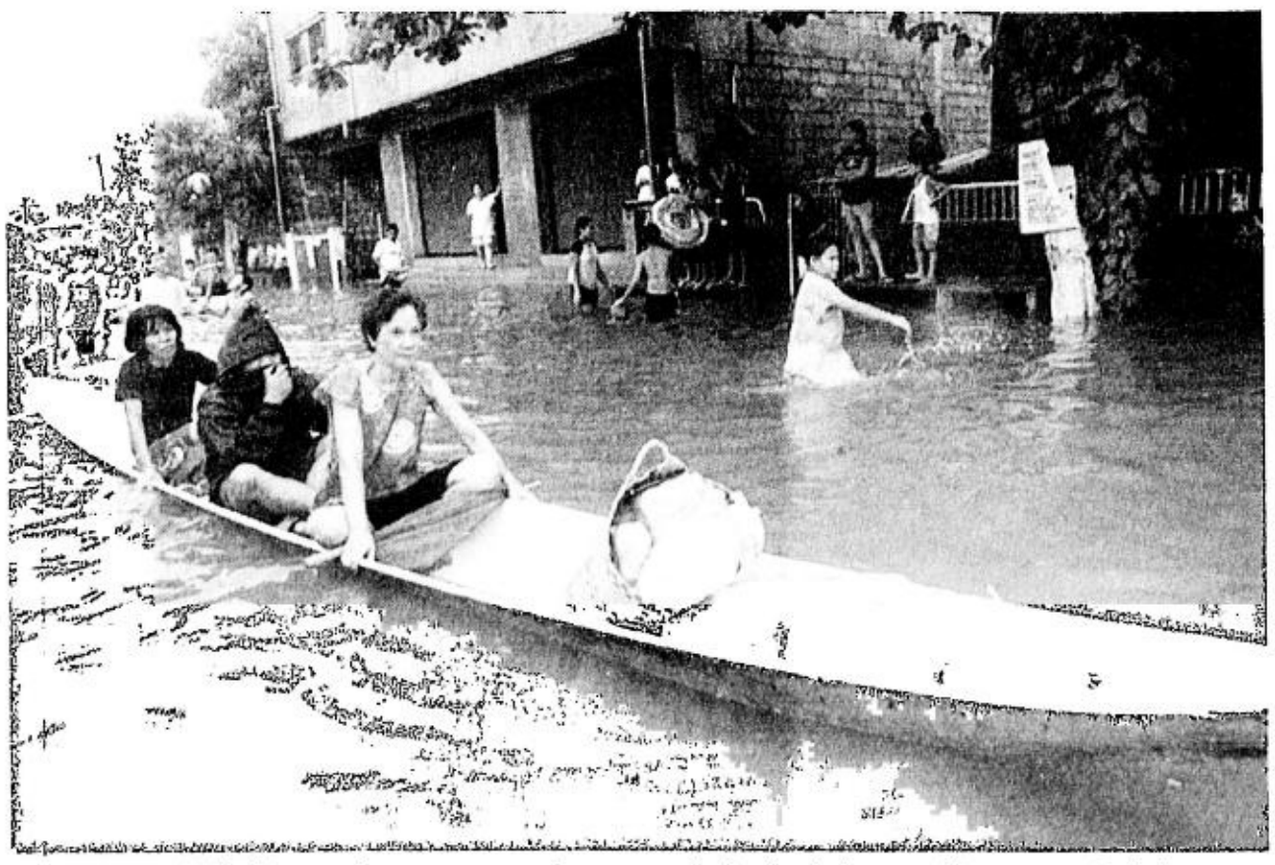


WATER WORLD: Vehicular traffic is stalled in this flooded portion of Dalandan, Valenzuela.

EVACUATION center scenes in Malanday, Marikina City: A boy cries . . .

. . . AS month-old Christy Omanito and her mother receive relief goods.

PHOTOS BY DENNIS SABANGAN



COMMUTERS (left) ride on a banca as means of transport in the flooded areas of Pampanga. At right, two women have difficulty in boarding the vessel.

REUTERS

Classes still suspended; typhoon death toll up

From page A14

towns in La Union and Pangasinan, the highway linking Central Luzon and Metro Manila to the Ilocos region remained passable.

Marcos Highway and Naguilian Road, the other major routes to and from Baguio City, remained open to all types of vehicles.

In La Union, the areas affected by floods were San Fernando City, Agoo, Naguilian, Sto. Tomas, Caba, Aringay and Bangar. In Pangasinan, Calasiao, Binalonan and Sta. Barbara were also flooded.

In Baguio, police said two men were hurt after their vehicles collided during heavy rain on Marcos Highway in Tuba, Benguet, on Monday morning.

In Cotabato, at least three persons were killed when they were carried by rampaging water while they were crossing a swollen river in Alamada town.

One of the victims was identified as six-month pregnant Barbara Quintero, 33, of Barangay Mirasol in Alamada.

The Provincial Social Welfare and Development reported that at least 2,000 families were evacuated in Pikit.

Zaida Rensulat, PSWD officer, identified the other affected towns as Pigcawayan, Midsayap and M'lang.

Drainage

The Department of Public Works and Highways said Metro Manila was flooded because its drainage system could not contain the rainfall, which over the past four days was almost four times the normal average rainfall.

In a summary report as of 4 a.m. yesterday, the DWPH said the accumulated rainfall for the past 92 hours was 406 mm, equivalent to 327 percent more than the average rainfall.

Tonio Sta. Elena, DPWH-National Capital Region director, said even the newer and upgraded pipes in Metro Manila could only hold twice the average rainfall volume.

The average rainfall from 1994 to 2001 was 24.83 mm/day. DPWH field officers recorded from July 4 to July 8 105.9 mm of rainfall/day.

"It would be very difficult for the drainage to absorb thrice the average rainfall, how much more four times? That's why the water receded very slowly in most areas," Sta. Elena said.

He said only 30 percent to 40 percent of the pipes in the metropolis were five to ten years old. The rest were installed as early as the 1950s.

Areas in Metro Manila with the highest water elevation as of yesterday morning were Montalban and Angono in Rizal; Nangka in San Mateo; Sto. Niño, Rosario J.S., Rosario L.S., Napindan J.S. and Napindan L.S. in Pasig; Pandacan in Manila; Fort Santiago in Makati; and San Juan.

The DPWH opened eight of its floodgates in Rosario Weir and two more in Rosario as the water level in Sto. Niño reached the emergency level of 17.22 meters.

Sta. Elena said the DPWH flood control program covered only 49 percent of Metro Manila's 13,000 hectares of flood-prone areas due to budget constraints.

Some projects, such as the interceptors installed on España and Sumulong Highway to channel the flow of water into rivers and creeks, "have not been successful" because they lacked the complementary flood control system.

"We lack the facility because we lack the budget for it," Sta. Elena said.

Small budget

He said that what appeared to be a huge budget—P188 million for Metro Manila—was small compared with the huge problem of flooding.

Sen. Ralph Recto said about one-fifth of Metro Manila was flood-prone, but the government allocated only 2 percent of the P42-billion total budget needed for this year to make the region flood-free.

Recto said that 13,100 hectares of Metro Manila's 63,000 ha of land would continue to turn into a "water world" during the monsoon months because money could only come in trickles.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has transferred to the Metro Manila Development Authority flood control projects in the metropolis previously handled by the DPWH.

She reiterated her order yesterday afternoon as she visited evacuation centers in flood-prone Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela.

"To begin with MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando has stopped flooding in Marikina. He has a proven track record. So he accepted the challenge to do the same for the entire Metro Manila," Ms Macapagal said over dzMM.

As expected, many barangays and thoroughfares in the northern part of Metro Manila, particularly the Caloocan-Navotas-Valenzuela (Camanava), were flooded.

In Caloocan, 183 families in Barangays 17, 118, 119, 160 and 178 were taken to evacuation centers as of 10 a.m. yesterday due to the floodwaters.

In Malabon, 19 barangays were still submerged in floodwater and 263 families were taken to safe grounds as the Malabon-Navotas River and the Tullahan River overflowed.

In Valenzuela City, some 400 families were evacuated from low-lying barangays. In Barangay Karuhatan, a 5-year-old boy was killed while his brother and parents were injured when a concrete wall collapsed and crushed their shanty.

In Navotas, 34 families from Market 3 inside the Navotas Fish Port were taken to the barangay hall of Northbay Boulevard-North due to the rising of floodwater.

In Marikina, 700 families were evacuated to higher grounds last Sunday. In Rizal, more than 2,000 people living along the banks of San Mateo River were also moved to higher grounds following the swelling of the river due to the heavy downpour. ***With reports from Donna S. Cueto, Volt Contreras, Blanche S. Rivera, Cynthia D. Balana, Dona Pazzibugan, Tina Santos and Nelson Flores in Manila; Jovelyn Reyes, Delmar Cariño, Gia Damaso-Dumo, Peter La. Julian, Yolanda Fuertes and Nathan Alcantara, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Carmela Reyes, Tonette Orejas, Jun Malig, Greg Refraccion, Ansbert Joaquin, Russell Arador, Cesar Villa and Abner Bolos, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Romulo O. Ponte and Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; and Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Iranian DI punished for dance classes

From page A1

Mohammad Khordadian, an Iranian-American, from leaving Iran for 10 years, giving dance classes for life and attending public celebrations or wedding ceremonies of people who are not close relatives for three years, lawyer Abdolrahman Rasouli said.

"Khordadian is innocent. He has done nothing wrong to deserve punishment. The whole verdict is irrelevant," Rasouli told the Associated Press.

Khordadian could not be reached for comment.

The dancer was jailed in May during a visit to Iran, his first in two decades.

He was released from Tehran's Evin prison late Sunday. The 10-year suspended jail term will be enforced if he is again found guilty by the court.

Rasouli said the dancer would appeal the verdict. He has 20 days to do so.

Khordadian told the court during the trial that "dancing is my job and I had no intention of promoting corruption among the youth," the lawyer said.

Rasouli also said the court's verdict banning Khordadian from leaving Iran was intended to "keep him away from an atmosphere that may provoke him to repeat his offenses."

Khordadian was traveling on an American passport and obtained his visa in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, before traveling to Iran to visit his ailing father and relatives, Rasouli said.

Khordadian's dance programs are widely watched by Iranian expatriates and many inside Iran on Los Angeles-based, Persian-language satellite television channels.

The court verdict against Khordadian coincides with a new crackdown on what Iranian officials call "acts of social immorality." Young Iranians driving around with loud music blaring out of their car radios have been charged under the social immorality rules.

The reformists have protested that "acts of social immorality" have not been clearly defined.

"Social virtues and discipline will never be established by the use of police force," the pro-reform daily Aftab-e-Yazd said last week.

"Citizens complain of arbitrary police action. Many citizens say they have been arrested and body-searched without doing anything wrong and others complain of insulting police behavior," the daily said.

Sweeping social restrictions imposed after the 1979 Islamic revolution have been gradually eased since the election of reformist President Mohammad Khatami in May 1997. But women must still wear headscarves and the mingling of unrelated men and women is frowned upon. ***AP***

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Mel Tiangco with some beneficiaries of Bisig Bayan.

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Kidnaps rising, say anti-crime groups

From page A1

baseline figures on kidnapping.

According to official police records, between Jan. 1 and June 24, a total of 45 persons were kidnapped in 34 incidents, down substantially from last year. But the CAAC records list 104 victims kidnapped in 69 incidents.

A year ago, the CAAC's six-month total was 55 incidents and 119 victims, including the 20 hostages abducted from Dos Palmas in May last year. If the Dos Palmas hostages are excluded, this year's total number of victims is higher than a year ago.

Two recommendations

At a press briefing, Ebdane said he wanted the entire PNP to be constituted as an anti-kidnap force and to directly supervise the operations against the kidnap-for-ransom gangs.

He said he would make these recommendations to President Macapagal-Arroyo at the summit today.

The Manila Hotel summit "will pave the way for the reconstitution of task forces to go after kidnapping and illegal drugs," he said.

"What I have in mind, which I would recommend to the President, is that (I) as the PNP chief be made directly responsible. The control and supervision of that anti-kidnapping unit should emanate from the boss at the national level," he said.

He added: "I will designate regional and provincial directors or chiefs of police to be directly responsible because we have a time frame, and we have to do it. And we have to comply."

The President had disbanded the National Anti-Crime Commission and its anti-kidnapping task force, which Ebdane headed, and gave the new PNP chief one year to stamp out the kidnapping problem.

Ebdane agreed with Ms Macapagal's assessment of the kidnapping problem as a threat to national security.

"The threat brought by kidnapping affects the entry of investors and has a bearing on economic development. It also threatens the well-being of the Filipino people," he said.

A resurgence

According to the CAAC, the number of kidnapping incidents fell from a high of 20 in January to a low of six in May, only to climb back into double-digit territory in June, with 12.

Some of the prominent victims included:

- A granddaughter of a deceased Senate president, who was released unharmed after her family paid P10 million in ransom. She was abducted somewhere in Mandaluyong City by a group of men in military uniform.
- Two grandchildren of a former justice, who were released after seven weeks. A P15-million ransom was paid in two tranches.
- A Chinese-Filipino businessman, kidnapped in Angeles City but released on the same day after the family paid a ransom of P6 million.
- A daughter of a police provincial director, who was grabbed while she was about to park her car in the parking area of a mall, also in Mandaluyong. She was pushed inside a waiting van.

However, before the suspects could make their escape, the mall elevator came to a stop and a number of people emerged. The suspects panicked and loosened their grip on the victim, who jumped out of the vehicle.

Not rich

Not all victims can be classified as rich.

An FX taxi driver was kidnapped for P8,000.

Another victim was rescued by the police during an entrapment operation, when a P5,000 ransom was about to be paid.

A secretary to a European ambassador and her husband were kidnapped as they were on their way to Sagada, Mountain Province. The couple was released after withdrawing from automated teller machines a total of P80,000.

Ang See's report showed that almost P69 million in ransom was paid to kidnappers in the first six months of the year.

She told the INQUIRER one of the items on the agenda that her group would like to push at the summit was the cooperation of the media. "Media can be your best friend, but it can also be your enemy," she said.

Ang See said the media should not include addresses and personal and financial details of the victim and the family in news items.

There have been instances, she said, that victims who were able to escape were traced by their abductors because their complete address was published by irresponsible media outlets.

She said the Chinese-Filipino community could trust Ebdane. "I am encouraging all victims to report to the police, because there is no other recourse except to trust them."

Not needed

Confident that there are no more attempts to destabilize her government, the President yesterday transferred the 730th Civil Security Group of the PAF to the Aktaf. At the same time she ordered the Aktaf, which was formed to run after the Abu Sayyaf, to concentrate on urban kidnapping.

"Since the threat of destabilization has died down, and Task Force Libra (continues to exist) mainly to protect the seat of government against destabilization, I think that the group should now be attached to Aktaf," Ms Macapagal said during the PAF's 55th anniversary celebration yesterday.

She permanently attached the PAF's civil security group to Libra because "it has performed so well" in stopping Estrada loyalists from laying siege to Malacañang on May 1 last year.

"I salute the 730th Civil Security Group that helped quell the May 1st riot," the President said.

"With the Abu Sayyaf Group now largely degraded, the Aktaf should now go back to fighting urban kidnapping," the President said.

In Davao City, Duterte said he would ask Ebdane to first cleanse the ranks of the police, because some policemen are in league with criminal syndicates. But he also vowed to help Ebdane rid the country of illegal drugs and the kidnapping menace.

Duterte emphasized command responsibility and accountability of police officers down to the precinct commanders. He said police officers should not confine themselves to the four walls of their office but go out into the streets.

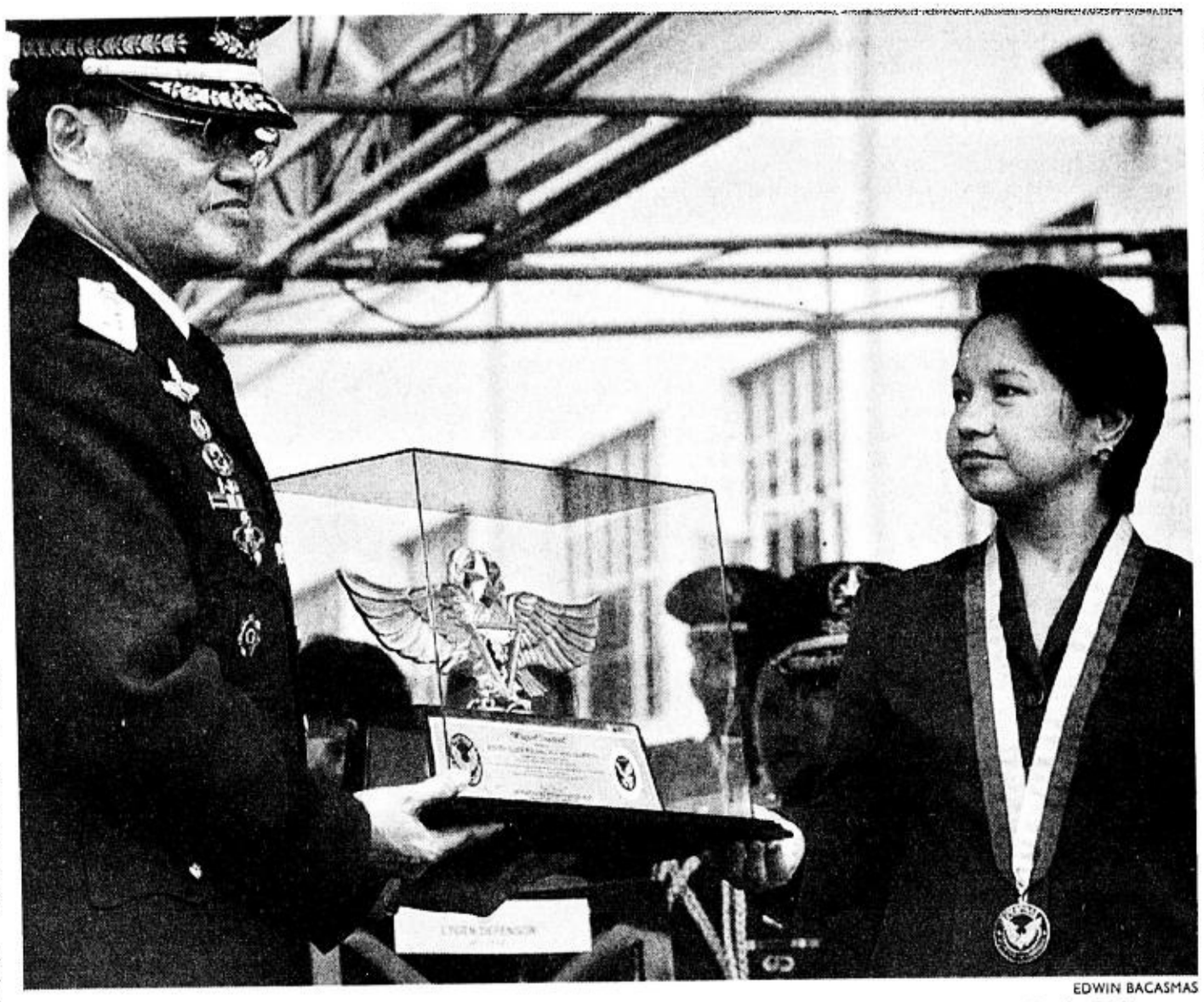
"The police should be pressed to do their work. I will work under him (Ebdane)," he said.

"There should be (only) one organization. Stick with the PNP. Let every policeman in this country perform—to the last station commander," he said.

He said he was giving himself six months to work with the task force created by the President and which he heads. "If there will be no remarkable achievement, then I will ask the President to fire me as head of the task force."

"I may be good for Davao City . . . (but) my expertise has boundaries," he said. "But I am ready to contribute."

With reports from Dona Pazzibugan and Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau



EDWIN BACASMAS

PRESIDENT Macapagal receives the "Wings of Command" memento from Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor during the Philippine Air Force's 55th anniversary celebration held at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City on Monday.

CBCP defines ideal leaders of barangays

From page A1

our chances of voting (for) the right one for our country?" Quevedo asked.

Quevedo said that choosing the right candidate in any electoral exercise was the cornerstone of a person's responsible exercise of his or her right of suffrage.

Reaction

"For every action, there is always an equal and opposite reaction," he said. "We reap what we sow . . . the kind of government we deserve is reliant on the votes we cast."

Voters are expected to troop to various polling precincts nationwide on Monday to choose village officials.

In a separate pastoral letter sent to churches nationwide, the CBCP president reiterated its position on lay leaders running for elective posts.

"As a general rule, any lay person in any position of authority in any Church entity or pastoral ministry should resign from such position if he or she runs for an elected public office," Quevedo said.

This is to "avoid politically created divisions in or among Church entities, preclude the possibility of using such entities for political gain, and avoid compromising the Church's credibility," he said.

Quevedo said any officer of a pastoral council, Basic Ecclesial Community, chapel or Church-recognized organization, or any member of a pastoral ministry should immediately resign from his or her position—and is deemed resigned—once he or she becomes a candidate for an elective post.

Should the candidate lose, the parish priest is given the discretion to accept him or her back, according to Quevedo.

Should the candidate win, the parish priest has the discretion of accepting back the officer "but at the level only of the Basic Ecclesial Community or chapel, when there is a serious lack of qualified candidates of integrity for public office, as well as a lack of lay leaders in Church entities."

"In such cases, care must be taken to avoid political divisiveness, the use of political power for religious purposes, or the use of a position in the Church for political gain," Quevedo said.

Areas of concern

Police have identified Kabacan, Aleosan, Carmen, Matalam, Makilala and Kidapawan, all in Cotabato, as areas of concern in the coming election.

Senior Supt. Odelon Ramoneda, Cotabato police chief, said these towns were considered "areas of concern," not hot spots, because the police were still in control of the areas.

Groups loyal to former Mayor Wilfredo Bataga and Mayor Luzviminda Tan had earlier clashed, resulting in the death of one person.

In Arakan, also in Cotabato, five villages were identified as areas of concern due to the presence of communist New People's Army guerrillas.

Ramoneda identified the villages as Tumanding, Lanao Kuran, Kabalantian, and Kinawayan. ***With a report from Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Doctors claim HMOs put profits ahead of patients

From page A1

Center in Quezon City.

In a speech before the Philippine College of Hospital Administrators, Calleja did not mince words. "The Hippocratic Oath and the Code of Ethics of the medical profession have been eroded by HMOs which broker health care for profit. The physician with his expertise is not for sale and the hospital is not the turf of profit-oriented HMO executives."

Usual complaints

The spokesperson for Philippine HMOs, Jesus Verne Quiazon, said he was very much aware of the usual complaints of doctors—"*binabarat n'yo na nga kami*, delayed *pa* payments *n'yo*" (loosely translated: HMOs pay cheap, and never on time.)

Quiazon, president of the 18-member Association of Health Maintenance Organizations in the Philippines Inc. (Ahmopi), said HMO rates were "not for the *de campanilla* (eminent) doctors because we cannot afford their fees. We can only afford one-fourth of the fees of the top doctors. But the fees that we're paying are much better than the fees that doctors in some cities outside Metro Manila would get. We have signed a memorandum of agreement with PMA and other doctors' groups so that we can agree on rates that are acceptable."

He explained the business model behind the HMOs. "(The) HMOs are *namamakyaw*. That's the basic concept. We contract out with some doctors, including specialists, and tell them, we will pay you lower than what you would normally get but we will send you all our patients. Our doctors are assured of volume."

A study conducted by the state-run Philippine Health Insurance Corp., or Philhealth, found that HMO physicians were "chosen on the basis of their impeccable credentials and outstanding qualifications. (The HMOs) screen and accept applicants with great emphasis on the doctors' training, experience and high ethical standards. In choosing hospitals to affiliate, facilities and medical staff composition of hospitals are taken into consideration."

Aside from PhilamCare, the Ahmopi members are Aetna Healthcare, Ayala HealthCare, Blue Cross, CAP, Caritas Health Shield, Cocolife Health Care, Fortune Medicare, Health Maintenance, Insurance Life Health Care, Maxicare PCIB Cigna Healthcare, Medicard Philippines, Metrocare Health, Optimum Healthcare, Pryce Care, St. Patrick's Health Care, Star Healthcare, and Value Care.

Quiazon said one of his goals as association president was to "improve HMO relations with health care providers because right now we're distrustful of each other. I'd like us to be partners. I believe we can do a lot together."

He admitted that the boycott of the Panay doctors "serves as model for other doctor-groups in various parts of the country. And that's worrying us."

"It's more difficult to organize a similar effort in Metro Manila because it's a bigger community. In the Iloilo and Bacolod City areas we have our own clinics so we can easily take care of ordinary illnesses. It becomes a problem when the services of specialists are needed," said Quiazon, also the president and chief executive officer of PhilamCare Health Systems.

Paying low and late

In his report, Clemente said the HMOs "consistently pull a fast one on physicians by paying low for professional services rendered (to the tune of 25-30 percent of what is due), paying late or not paying at all," allowing the HMOs to reduce their costs and increase their profits.

Like doctors, hospitals complain of delayed payment of bills, in addition to what they call "arbitrary deletion or denial of some hospital charges, like 90 percent of the bill would be paid but not the remaining 10 percent for various reasons," wrote Clemente, whose family runs the Capitol Medical Center in Quezon City.

"Many doctors work for (the) HMOs. But many others, including those contracted by the same business entities, are uncomfortable with (the) HMOs," observed Calleja. "Health care delivery should not be entrusted to these merchants of health whose intrusion into the traditionally revered doctor-patient relationship is entirely irrelevant."

"The relationship, however, has been shattered by the introduction of (the) HMOs," Clemente noted, "that work on the assumption of a pre-enrolment of members or subscribers who are, in turn, assigned to physicians that have previously signed service contracts with specific HMOs. In one fell sweep an HMO cuts off the links of patients in a particular hospital with scores of physicians that they have known for a long time and arbitrarily put all HMO members under the care of one accredited doctor."

All the patients, he said, are "now lumped together, involuntarily or reluctantly, to begin an artificial doctor-patient relationship that may last up to the next HMO contract renewal."

That is why, Nadala said, "I didn't enroll my family with any HMO because I won't be able to choose the doctors who will attend to my family members if ever they get sick. The HMO will dictate to me."

In his report, Clemente said "the greatest legacy of (the) HMOs in the field of medical service delivery is the destruction of the time-honored system of compensation for doctors' services. In the old days, a physician's professional fees were closely guarded secrets based on the Robin Hood concept of taxing the rich while sparing the poor, taking into consideration the humanitarian aspect of health care delivery and guided by the patient's ability to pay."

Active hand

Problems also crop up between doctors and the HMOs because the latter "take an active hand in the decision-making process regarding the diagnostic examinations to be done as well as the treatment modalities that would be authorized and subsequently shouldered," Nadala said.

The Iloilo surgeon speaks from experience. For two years in the late 1990s, Nadala worked for CAP, an HMO. "They had a nurse going around, checking the patients and questioning why I prescribed an expensive antibiotic. I should have given a cheaper brand, the nurse told me. I told her she had no right to ask me that because if there's a complication, it's me the patient would run after, not the HMO. I said I had to use that particular antibiotic because it's effective for the patient. I didn't care how much it cost. All I wanted was for my patient to get well. And besides, who is she to question me, she's only an HMO nurse."

In the HMO system, Clemente said, "the HMO has the final say on all matters regarding what types of examinations can be ordered and what management options can be rendered."

Montero stressed that the HMOs were "changing the playing field, so that prescribing choices once driven by a physician are now second-guessed by some corporate people with cost-cutting and net profits in mind."

Unknown to many HMO subscribers, Calleja said "there are 'gag clauses' in service contracts and health schemes which prevent doctors from discussing treatment options that would increase cost to the plan or that are not covered by the plan, as well as prohibit disclosure of bonuses received by physicians for denying services to their patients."

Calleja claimed "many of those hired by HMOs are fresh graduates, some of whom are gullible and vulnerable to offers of small pay."

He recalled that when he was PMA president, "I told them to resist the temptation of being hired by HMOs. I know young doctors need to make a living. But when they reach a certain level of career sufficiency, they should consider getting out of the HMO network. Using them as stepping stone in improving a rookie doctor's network is one thing but working for (the) HMOs for life is another."

In Western Visayas, Nadala disclosed that the HMOs "have somehow subverted the ongoing boycott by hiring surgeons who have yet to pass their written and oral examinations (conducted by the PCS). (The) HMOs are on the lookout for them, give them patients who are unaware they're dealing with non-specialists."

But "there's nothing wrong with employing young doctors," Quiazon said. "We'd like to work with them and help them build a practice. In three or four years, they'll have a good practice and maybe stop working for us. Then we'll move to a new set of doctors."

"We have specialists and young doctors in our stable. We make sure Ahmopi doctors are accredited with specialty societies," he added.

P10-M SPONSORSHIP

Korean firm backs RP Team

By June Navarro

PHILIPPINE sports yesterday got a huge financial boost from a sports-loving donor in its bid to win gold medals in the coming Asian Games in Busan, South Korea this September.

The Philippine Sports Commission and Samsung Electronics Philippines Corporation have entered into an agreement, with the giant Korean firm infusing a whopping P10-million sponsorship package for the country's preparation for the quadrennial games.

PSC chair Eric Buhain and Samsung Phils. president and chief executive officer Sang Youl Eom signed a memorandum of agreement yesterday at the Diamond Hotel confirming Samsung's commitment to Philippine sports.

"We are grateful that Samsung Electronics Phils. Corp. is helping whip up a bandwagon of sorts as far as private sector support for Philippine sports is concerned," said Buhain.

Samsung will immediately dole out P6.25 million in cold cash while the rest of the P10-million sponsorship package will be earned through a fund-raising scheme.

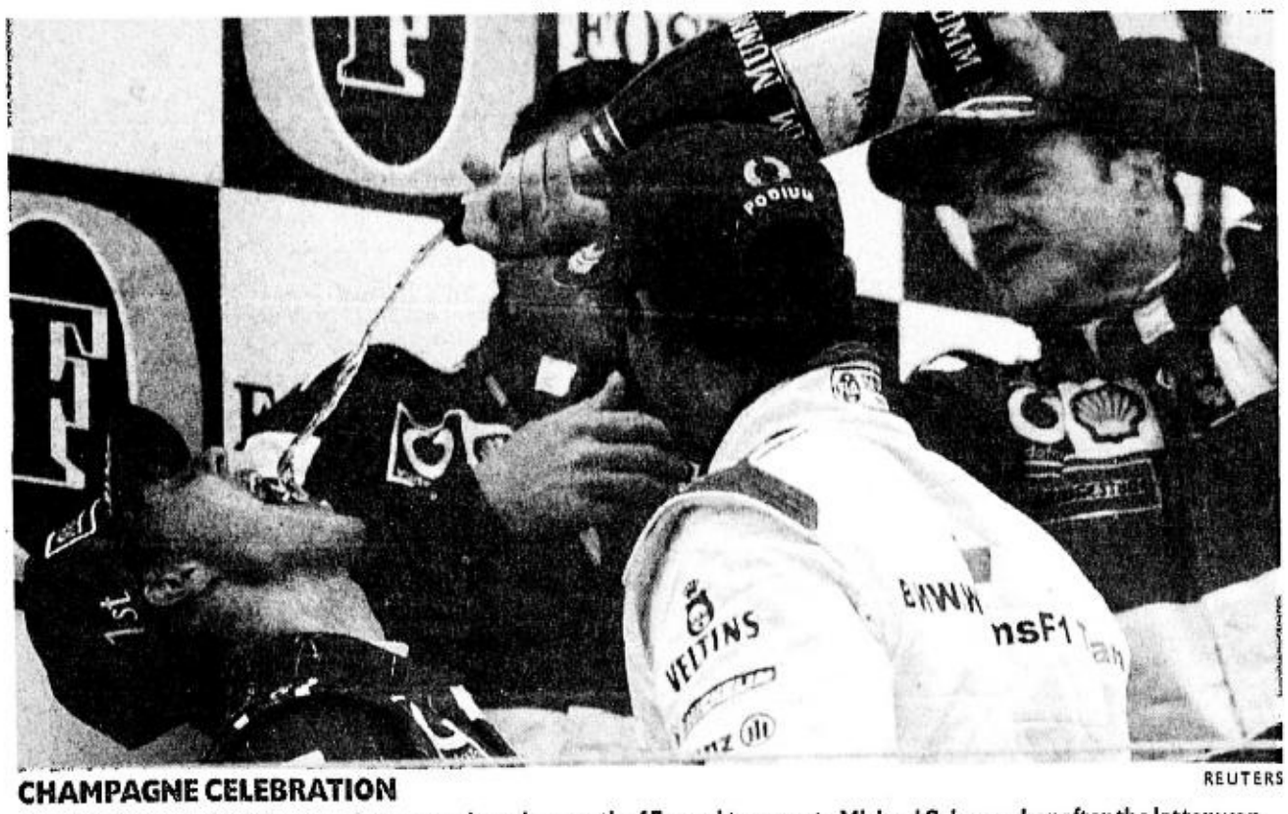
Buhain said Samsung would allocate US$1 (roughly P50) for every Samsung product purchased in the local market to cover the P3.75 million deficit.

Eom said the financial scheme, designed to run for three months, could fetch at least P1.25 million a month and would go directly to the coffers of the PSC in three tranches.

"It is with pride and honor that Samsung Electronics Phils. is getting involved in Philippine sports development," said Eom. "We at Samsung see the importance of sports in the country's development as a whole and in our own way, we would like to contribute to that aspect."

In exchange, the PSC will grant Samsung naming rights in PSC-managed venues aside from making the company its prime partner in all projects.

"We appreciate the generosity of Samsung Electronics Phils. In the 12-year history of the PSC, it is only now that such package has been forged with an active mover in the private sector," said Buhain.



CHAMPAGNE CELEBRATION REUTERS

Rubens Barichello (right) pours champagne into the mouth of Ferrari teammate Michael Schumacher after the latter won the British Grand Prix on Sunday. Barichello placed second while Williams' Pablo Montoya landed third. The victory gave Schumacher a whopping 54-point lead over his rivals in the Formula One standings with only seven races to go.

Kelly rallies, rules Western tilt

LEMONT, Illinois—Jerry Kelly may be a bit too elderly for the 20-something "Young Guns", but he is making a name for himself at the ripe old age of 35.

The Madison, Wisconsin native continued his break through year Sunday, rallying from a three-stroke deficit to win the Western Open for his second victory of 2002.

Kelly, who also captured the season-opening Sony Open in Hawaii, began the day tied for third, but carded a seven-under 65 to post a two-stroke victory over Davis Love III.

"My wife told me to shoot 63, so I was a couple shots short of her expectations, but it felt really comfortable out there," Kelly said. "I wanted to be me out there, which is great. I didn't try and do anything special. I knew what I had to do with my game."

Love carded a 6-under 66 and finished two strokes ahead of Brandt Jobe, who also shot a 66 at the Cog Hill Golf and Country Club. Jobe posted his best finish in 138 career starts on the PGA Tour.

Winless in six full years on the PGA Tour entering 2002, Kelly posted a winning score of 19-under 269, breaking 70 in all four rounds. He took home 720,000 dollars and climbed from 13th to third on the money list with just under 2.4 million dollars. Only Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson are ahead of him. *AFP*

Basilan bets face Bataan for crown

By Roy Luarca

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Bataan A and Basilan banked on the heads-up plays of their grandmasters to beat separate opponents on Sunday and arrange a title showdown for the 2002 Inter-Provincial Chess Team Championship at the Robinson's Starmills here.

TORRE

GM Rogelio Antonio Jr. downed Fide Master Jesse Noel Sales twice in their board one battle as Bataan A swept Laguna (Calamba), 2.5-1.5, and 3-1, respectively, in the semifinal round.

GM Eugene Torre also blanked IM Nelson Mariano in towing Basilan past Bohol (San Miguel) in the other semis duel. Basilan dropped the first match, 2.5-1.5, but rebounded mightily in the second, 3.5-0.5, to forge the two-match finals with Bataan A.

The champion team will earn P200,000 while the runner-up will take home P100,000 in the tournament organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines in cooperation with the Department of Interior and Local Government, the province of Pampanga, Department of Tourism and Robinson's Starmills.

This will mark the second time that Torre and Antonio will meet in the championship round of this annual tournament. In last year's edition held in Balanga, Bataan, Torre's Mt. Province won over Antonio's Bataan A team.

They also clashed in the 2002 Inter-Cities Team Chess Championship in Kidapawan City, where Torre's Quezon City squad bested Antonio's Mandaluyong team.

In these tournaments, Torre and Antonio drew all their games with Torre's teammates proving to be steadier in the crucial games.

Manning the lower boards for Basilan are NM Rolando Nolte, Rex Ami and Macapagal Paguital. They will be opposed by FM Fernie Donquines, Melvin Merelos and Edmundo Gatus.

"It's about time that we make up for our losses to Eugene's team," said Antonio, who'll play white in the first match.

Lance takes it easy as Swiss rider wins

LUXEMBOURG—In the long run, losing the Tour de France lead in Sunday's first stage could help Lance Armstrong win a fourth straight title.

Switzerland's Rubens Bertogliati won the stage by sprinting across the finish just ahead of the main pack, which included Armstrong. He also took the leader's yellow jersey from the Texan, who had won Saturday's prologue.

It was a virtual certainty that the US Postal Service rider would give up his lead early in the race rather than waste energy trying to keep the yellow jersey. He isn't expected to bid for a commanding edge until the mountain stages later race, which finishes July 28 in Paris.

"If you have aspirations to have the lead in Paris, holding on to the yellow jersey now is not part of the game plan," said Dan Osipow, director of operations for Armstrong's US Postal team. "The jersey not only means more pressure, it means more work to defend it."

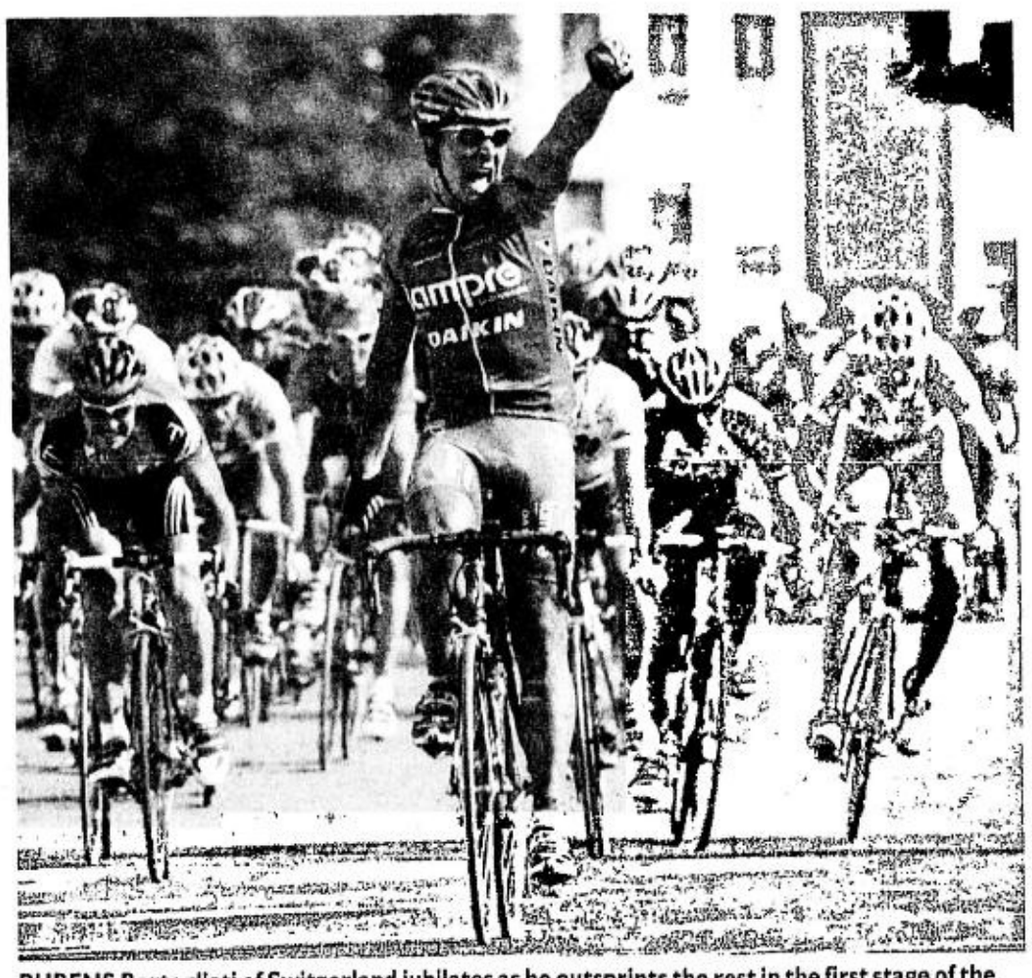
Armstrong has only lost the yellow jersey once before–in 1999, the year of his first Tour title, when he also won the prologue. He regained the lead in the mountains and kept it until the finish.

"Lance Armstrong, tactically, would have an interest in seeing someone else take over the yellow jersey, so that someone else helps him lead the pack until the mountains," said Tour de France director Jean-Marie Leblanc. That way, Armstrong would save his energy for the Pyrenees and the Alps.

While Armstrong is the overwhelming favorite to win the Tour, the early, flat stages give other teams an opportunity to shine.

"When there is a chance like this to take, you have to go for it," Bertogliati said after his first ever stage win at the world's premier cycling event. The Lampre-Daikin rider clocked 4 hours, 49 minutes and 16 seconds–the same time as the pack of 121 other riders

Taking the yellow jersey, Bertogliati said, "is a dream that has now come true." *AP*



RUBENS Bertogliati of Switzerland jubilates as he outsprints the rest in the first stage of the 89th Tour de France on Sunday. REUTERS

Engineer tops chess 1st leg

SAUDI-BASED engineer Joseph Galindo edged Manuel Yu of Risk Saver Insurance in the tiebreak to top the elite Success section in the first leg of the 2002 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express or PEACE 2002 held over the weekend at the Land Bank Plaza in Malate, Manila.

"I wish I could join more legs of PEACE 2002, but I can't," said Galindo, who left for Saudi Arabia yesterday.

Eighteen newcomers and 11 veterans of the chessfest braved strong rains and flash floods to participate in the one-day five-round event organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia (Acca) and supported by Land Bank and Belgosa Media Systems Inc.

Edwin Lorenzo of Manly Plastic Inc. and Noel Garcia of UPI Contracting shared third-fourth places with identical 3.5 points. Judge Emil Urbi of the Municipal Trial Court of Naic, Cavite and Ryan Ruiz of Globe Telecom were joint fifth with three points apiece.

A three-way tie for first occurred in the Prosperity section among Cyrus Atienza of Land Bank, Reenan Hornilla of Trend Micro and Gerry Yulo of Cocolife with 3.5 points each, but Atienza brought home the champion's trophy due to his superior tiebreak score.

The series resumes on July 27. Contact the Acca at 892-8759 for details.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Detroit 9, Boston 8; N.Y. Yankees 10, Toronto 6; Cleveland 9, Chicago White Sox 3; Oakland 3, Kansas City 2; Seattle 8, Minnesota 2; Anaheim 2, Tampa Bay 1, 10 innings; Baltimore 10, Texas 4.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Atlanta 2, Chicago Cubs 0; Milwaukee 7, Cincinnati 4; Houston 6, Pittsburgh 1; Philadelphia 10, Montreal 8; St. Louis 12, Los Angeles 6; San Diego 7, Colorado 1; N.Y. Mets 9, Florida 3; San Francisco 5, Arizona 2. *AP*

COURTESY CALL

IBF junior featherweight champion Manny Pacquiao (left) is shown with Sen. Francis 'Kiko' Pangilinan during his courtesy call at the Senate recently. Pangilinan filed a resolution lauding the sportsmanship and skills of Pacquiao whose latest victory brought honor and worldwide recognition to the country. Pacquiao, in return, thanked the senator for helping him support charitable institutions and sports programs in General Santos City.

Saulog joining Malaysia 'moto' leg

THE NATIONAL Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa) recently announced its appointment of Shell Yamaha rider Jovie Saulog as Philippine representative to the Malaysian leg of the 2002 FIM (Federacion Internationale de Motocyclisme) Asian Motocross Championships slated in Johor Bauru, Malaysia on July 14.

Saulog, a six-time Rider of the Year awardee and the most seasoned among the active pro riders in the local motocross circles, will be competing in the Pro Category.

His appointment as the country's bet to the prestigio · eve..' i· n line with Namssa's policy of sending riders who have shown exemplary skill and excellence in competition in its sanctioned events.

Namssa has been instrumental in having the Philippines represented in over 20 international motocross events in recent years.

Macky Carapiet, incumbent president of the Asian Motocross Commission and a newly appointed member to the FIM World Motocross Commission (the international body tasked to oversee the competitions of the FIM World Motocross Grand Prix, the FIM World Supercross Grand Prix and the new Super Motard Grand Prix) and Ken Falco, Namssa president, will be joining Saulog in Malaysia.

"We hope to be able to host one round of the Asian Championships in either motocross or road racing," Falco said.

Falco likewise took time out to echo the invitation extended by the Asian Motorcycle Touring Association (Amta) to Philippine touring riders through Namssa to the South Korea-North Korea Touring Event on Aug. 13-16. For details, log on to www.amta.co.kr or email namssa01@hotmail.com.

Pasay 5-cock derby lures strong field

A TOTAL of 114 powerhouse entries have registered so far in Pasay City Cockpit's 15th Anniversary 5-Cock Derby slated on July 18 and 20.

PCC pit manager Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano announced that the elimination round on July 18 (2-cock) will start at exactly 9 a.m.

Because of this, submission of weights is strictly one day before derby (July 17, from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.).

Interested parties may contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

Every participant will receive these anniversary gifts: rice cooker, special rice, two-burner gas stove, casino chips and product giveaways of Sagupaan High-Action ready-mix maintenance feeds.

The runner-up finishers will get a microwave oven while the champions, a refrigerator each. The champion handler and gaffer will get P100,000 and 50,000, respectively.

M. Lhuillier heads Espiritu Cup entries

CEBU'S M. Lhuillier team has joined the fourth Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament which unwraps on July 19 at the Makati Coliseum.

Also seeing action in the tourney supported by Milo and sponsored by adidas, Pasay City Mayor Peewee Trinidad, Red Bull, Talk N Text, Purefoods, Sta. Lucia Realty, San Miguel Beer, Coca-Cola, Shell, Alaska and FedEx are the Pasay City Selection, Taguig City Selection of coach Danny Gavierres, and PMI of coach Diosdado Santiago.

The final team managers' meeting will be held at 7 p.m. tomorrow at Funtastic Restaurant along Roxas Boulevard.

Reigning interclub and defending champion Spring Cooking Oil has also signed up along with five other teams.

All participating teams are invited to attend tomorrow's meeting. Other interested clubs may contact Danny Espiritu at cellphone no. 0917-8456944. *RL*

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: Mcdonald's LPGA Championship, Third Round at 8 p.m. on Star Sports

PGA Europro Tour 2002 Highlights at 11 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

PGA Advil Western Open, Second Round (r) at 2 p.m. on Star Sports

This is the PGA Tour at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

TENNIS: ATP World Team Championship 2002 at 8 p.m. on Star Sports

Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships Day 12 - Ladies Singles Final, Mens and Mixed Doubles Finals at 12:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

CYCLING: Tour De France 2002 Highlights Stage #2 at 12:30 p.m. (r – 6:30 p.m.) on ESPN

BOWLING: CGU Asian Bowling Tour (Philippines) - Semifinals and Finals at 1 p.m. (r) on ESPN

BASEBALL: 2002 Century 21 Home Run Derby at 8 a.m. (r – 9 p.m.) on ESPN

WIMBLEDON MISMATCH

Hewitt ho-hums past Argentine foe

WIMBLEDON, England—If there were ever any doubts about Lleyton Hewitt's status as the world's top player, there aren't any more.

The 21-year-old Australian crushed David Nalbandian in straight sets Sunday in the Wimbledon final to win his second Grand Slam title, solidify his No. 1 ranking and confirm the changing of the guard in men's tennis.

In a tournament where aging former champions Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi lost in the second round, Hewitt swept through the draw without a hitch and put on a ruthless performance Sunday to win 6-1, 6-3, 6-2 in under two hours.

The match shaped up as a mismatch: the top-seeded Hewitt against No. 28 Nalbandian, a 20-year-old Argentine playing in his first grass court tournament and his first match on Centre Court.

And a mismatch it was.

Hewitt never wavered, whipping his ground strokes with power and precision, dictating the points, making very few errors. Nalbandian couldn't cope with the occasion or Hewitt's supremacy, making countless unforced errors.

Hewitt's only show of nerves came when he served a double fault on his first match point at 5-2, 40-0. But when Nalbandian hit a shot long on the next point, Hewitt fell onto his back in exhilaration.

He got back to his feet and slammed a ball into the crowd. After shaking hands with Nalbandian, Hewitt left his racket on his chair and pumped his fists above his head to the crowd.

Hewitt then climbed up through the stands to the guest box, emulating the celebrations of Pat Cash, the last Australian to win Wimbledon in 1987.

Hewitt embraced his coach Jason Stoltenberg, kissed his girlfriend Kim Clijsters and hugged his parents before returning to the court to accept the winner's trophy.

With an Australian flag draped around his shoulders, he paraded around the court showing off the Challenge Cup trophy to the crowd.

"I kept looking at the scoreboard to see if it was real," Hewitt said. "It's an unbelievable feeling. I always dreamed that some day I would be playing for this trophy."

Hewitt, who won the U.S. Open last September, has now added the most prestigious title in tennis to his resume and validated his legitimacy as the top dog in the game.

What's more, Hewitt became the first baseliner to win Wimbledon since 1992.

It was the most one-sided final in terms of fewest games won by the loser since John McEnroe beat Jimmy Connors 6-1, 6-1, 6-2 in 1984.

Meanwhile, a day after Serena beat Venus in the women's final at Wimbledon, the Williams sisters were back on Centre Court. This time, both were winners.

With a cold wind swirling and rain clouds threatening, the sisters beat French Open champions Paola Suarez and Virginia Ruano Pascual, 6-2, 7-5, Sunday to win the women's doubles title. *AP*

HEWITT falls to the ground and celebrates after completing his 6-1, 6-3, 6-2 victory over Nalbandian. AP

The baseline game is back

WIMBLEDON, England—A fizzle in the drizzle. A Wimbledon final hackers could appreciate and only the most loyal fans could love.

It had as much tension as a snapped string. As much excitement as teatime.

The loudest cheer came for a man who somersaulted naked over the net. At least he provided comic relief. Not that anyone expected anything more.

Lleyton Hewitt was No. 1 coming in and he's No. 1 going out, brandishing his first Wimbledon trophy Sunday after a 6-1, 6-3, 6-2 drubbing of 20-year-old David Nalbandian, an endearing but overwhelmed Argentine making his debut on Centre Court.

If there was little to savor in this sloppy affair, it at least provided a welcome change from the fusillade of aces that ring out most other years.

Pete Sampras sometimes served more aces in two games than the seven Hewitt and Nalbandian produced in three sets. On the other hand, they hit more groundstrokes in one rally than Sampras did in a whole match. To the typical weekend player, this felt a little more familiar.

Bjorn Borg, Jimmy Connors, Andre Agassi and now Hewitt are the only men to win Wimbledon from the baseline in the Open era. The only ones, really, since Bill Tilden back in 1930.

This final was the first between two baseliners since Borg beat Connors two straight years, 1977 and 1978.

The baseline game may be back on Centre Court. But for how long?

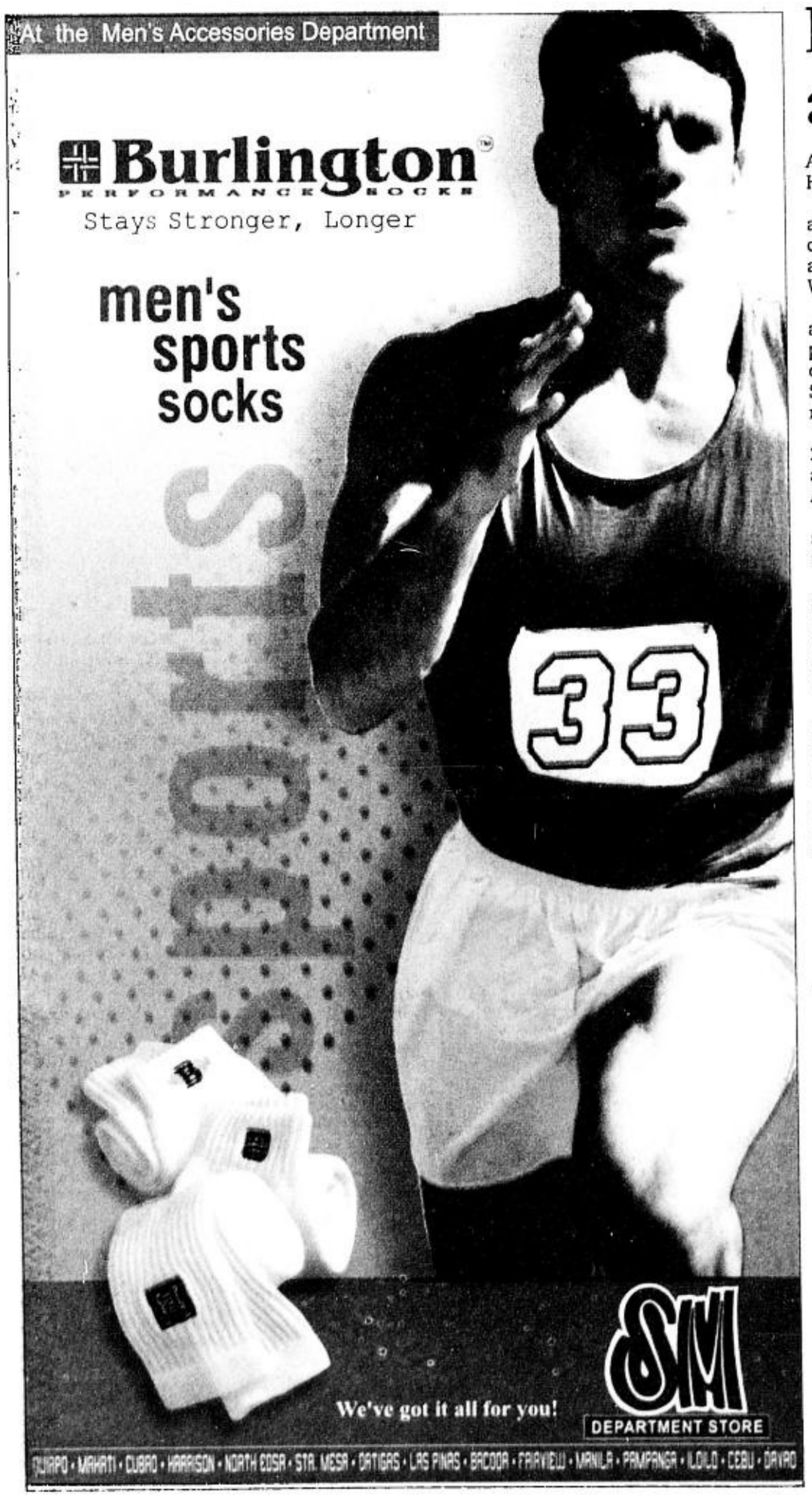
History suggests that Hewitt's title run this year is more an anomaly than a portent for the future. Consider the trend: Connors in 1982, Agassi in 1992, Hewitt in 2002. Once every 10 years. Not a baseliner in between.

The reason is simple. Grass, where the ball skids low and fast, favors the big serve-and-volleyer. Always will.

Winning from the backcourt takes a rare combination of sharp returns and steady groundstrokes. It takes intelligence and swift legs, canny anticipation and the endurance to chase balls all over the court.

Most of all it takes patience and guts, a willingness to stand 10 meters (yards) from the net when the opponent is rushing in, trying to win with the power of passing shots or the finesse of drops and lobs.

Agassi stands his ground in the center of the baseline and controls points with flat, crushing groundstrokes from side to side, winning as much by wearing players down as by whipping shots past them. He's not as fast afoot as the other baseliners, but he seems to know where all the balls are going and usually gets there in time. No one has had quicker reflexes on returns or has taken shots earlier on the hop. *AP*



Big welcome awaits Lleyton

ADELAIDE, Australia—Aussies love Lleyton Hewitt again.

The 21-year-old world No. 1 has had a hot-and-cold relationship with his hometown crowd, but he'll be welcomed back to Adelaide as a hero in a street parade to celebrate his Wimbledon tennis title.

Hewitt had supporters across the nation awake until the early hours tracking his progress in a commanding, 6-1, 6-3, 6-2 win over Argentina's David Nalbandian in Sunday's final of the most prestigious tournament in tennis.

The championship match finished at almost 2 a.m. Monday in Australia's eastern time zone and 1.30 a.m in Adelaide, capital of South Australia state.

South Australian Premier Mike Rann said a street parade in Adelaide would be a fitting tribute for the state's highest-profile athlete.

"I think it's really important for all of us to give a massive welcome to Lleyton Hewitt," Rann told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio. "Anyone winning Wimbledon is a great world achievement but to do it at his age and do it so well is fantastic."

Newspapers printed late Monday editions to mark Hewitt's win, which ended a 15-year absence of Australian singles champions at the premier grass court championship.

The Sydney Morning Herald newspaper carried a front-page picture of a pumped-up Hewitt under headline: "Bad boy turns legend as Hewitt wins Wimbledon." *AP*

Streaker steals final limelight

WIMBLEDON, England—He danced and pranced on Centre Court, somersaulted over the net and bowed to the crowd.

No, not men's champion Lleyton Hewitt.

The streaker.

For the second time in six years, the men's final at Wimbledon was interrupted by a naked prankster cavorting on Centre Court.

In 1996, a young woman wearing only a tiny apron dashed across the court just before the match between Richard Krajicek and MaliVai Washington.

On Sunday, it was a 37-year-old man–a self-described "serial streaker"–who enlivened the proceedings during a rain break in Hewitt's three-set victory over David Nalbandian.

Some might say it was the most entertaining part of a one-sided match.

With Hewitt leading 6-1, 1-0, the man jumped onto the court, shed all of his clothes, kicked off his shoes and did a little jig at the net. As spectators laughed and cheered, he did a pirouette, bowed, flipped over the net and flexed his muscles. *AP*

WIMBY GALLERY

HEWITT (left) kisses his girlfriend, Belgian tennis star Kim Clijsters, after crushing Nalbandian. AP

SIR Paul McCartney (left) and wife Heather were among the happy crowd who watched the men's singles final. AP

TOURNAMENT referee Allan Mills (left)) and a military steward try to catch an unidentified streaker who jumped onto the court during a rain break of the Hewitt-Nalbandian tussle. AP

FOUR DIGIT
Luzon 1 1 8 0
(in exact order)
Vis / Min 4 0 2 7

MEGALOTTO 6/45
5 3 30 45 31 16

SUERTRES 2 8 6

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza • Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

NCAA games postponed

DUE to inclement weather, NCAA basketball games were postponed yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. Typhoon "Gloria" forced NCAA officials to reset the match pitting Mapua Institute of Technology and defending champion San Sebastian College and the Letran-Jose Rizal University clash for another day.

Tigers aim for top spot vs Hotdogs

Standings	W	L
Red Bull	3	1
Coca-Cola	3	1
Alaska	3	1
Talk N Text	3	2
Selecta-RP	2	2
San Miguel	2	2
Sta. Lucia	2	2
Ginebra	2	3
FedEx	1	3
Purefoods	1	3
Shell	1	3

GAME TODAY (Cuneta Astrodome)
7 p.m.—Purefoods vs Coca-Cola

By June Navarro

BUOYED by its victory over sister team Barangay Ginebra, Coca-Cola takes on another San Miguel Corporation sibling when it faces Purefoods today in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Tigers clawed the Kings, 70-65, behind the workaholic Ron Hale and Bryant Basemore, installing them in a triple tie with Alaska and Batang Red Bull at the top.

In contrast, the TJ Hotdogs are reeling from an 81-58 beating they got from another sister ballclub—the San Miguel Beermen—Friday night in Iloilo City.

A Tigers win over the Hotdogs in the 7 p.m. match will catapult Chot Reyes and his title-hungry wards to solo leadership.

Coach Ryan Gregorio and the TJ Hotdogs, however, need it more since another setback would send them at the bottom of the 11-team mid-season competition.

Gabe Muoneke has been consistent in the past but he's not a Derrick Brown-type who could make things happen for the Hotdogs.

During their clash against the Beermen, Muoneke took charge of reviving the Hotdogs from an impending romp but lost steam in the final reckoning that reflected the final count's huge difference.

Kerby Raymundo was the only local who got his game going to backstop Muoneke.

The rest, including Kelvin Price, were too awed by the dominating presence of San Miguel imports Shea Seals and the power-dunking Art Long.

The missing ingredients are clearly drawn and the Tigers would waste no effort to pick on that glaring advantage.

Hale, Basemore and the entire workforce of the Tigers act as one happy family with clear-cut roles and responsibilities.

Poch Juinio, Johnny Abarrientos, Estong Balesteros, William Antonio and rookie Leo Avenido gladly step up when the Tigers are in dire straits.

SEVEN cage greats pose during Hall of Fame ceremonies at the Manila Peninsula. (Standing from left) Ramoncito Campos, representing Carlos Badion, Mon Lim, representing Eddie Lim, Marlet Navarro, representing Mariano Tolentino, Gov. Joe Zubiri, chair of steering committee, Geronimo Cruz, Alfonso Marquez, Kurt Bachmann and Loreto Carbonell. (Sitting from left) PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino, Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino, PSC chair Eric Buhain and Trustee Carlos Velez. JESS YUSON

Cruz, 6 others enshrined to Hall of Fame

By Dennis U. Eroa

"SORRY to all those whom I elbowed."

With this punchline, Pampanga's pride Geronimo "Gerry" Cruz set the tone for a vibrant, memorable enshrinement ceremonies for the third batch of cagers to the prestigious Hall of Fame amid heavy rains last Sunday at the Manila Peninsula Hotel ballroom.

Cruz, a two-time Olympian, whose legendary career was cut short by a knee injury when he was 26 years old, was one of seven cagers who recently joined the Hall of Fame.

Kurt Bachman, Loreto "Bonnie" Carbonell, Cruz, and Zamboangeño Alfonso "Boy" Marquez joined their respective families in the short, but meaningful event attended by leading sports personalities.

The late Eduardo "Stonewall" Lim and Mariano "Nano" Tolentino were represented by their respective families while the audience listened intently as the widow of Carlos "Mr. Bicycle" Badion spoke on tape, thanking the organizers for the honor.

Ms Marlet Navarro received the Ramon Orlina-trophy in behalf of Tolentino, while Mon Lim spoke in behalf of his illustrious father.

Former Representative and now Bukidnon Gov. Jose Zubiri Jr, regarded as the brain behind the Hall of Fame, gave the opening remarks. Eric Buhain, chair of the Philippine Sports Commission, was the guest of honor in the ceremonies emceed by Quinito Henson.

Among the prominent guests were PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino, Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino, PSC Commissioner Mike Barredo, Ambassador Barry Gusi of Micronesia, former POC President Julian Malonso, Vintage's Bobong Velez, BAP legal counsel Boni Alentajan, Leo Prieto, Danny Lopez, Hall of Famer Ramoncito Campos and PBA great Atoy Co.

Respected businessmen-sportsmen Manolo Lopez of Meralco and Fernando Zobel de Ayala of the Ayala Corporation, are the chair and vice-chair, respectively, of the Board of Trustees of the National Basketball Hall of Fame Foundation Inc.

The new inductees joined 15 others representing the first and second batch of the Hall of Fame awardees. They were Fely Fajardo, Charles Borck, Jacinto Ciria Cruz, Primitivo Martinez, Ramoncito Campos, Ed Ocampo, Gabriel Fajardo, Narciso Bernardo, Lauro Mumar, Carlos Loyzaga, Rafael Hechanova Sr, Pocholo Martinez, Francisco Vestil, Tony Genato and Martin Urra.

UAAP kicks off July 13

UNIVERSITY of the East battles University of the Philippines in the opener of the 65th UAAP basketball championship on July 13 at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Red Warriors-Maroons tussle is set at 2 p.m. after an elaborate opening ceremonies centering on this year's theme "Youth of today, future of tomorrow, searching for new beginning."

National University is this year's host.

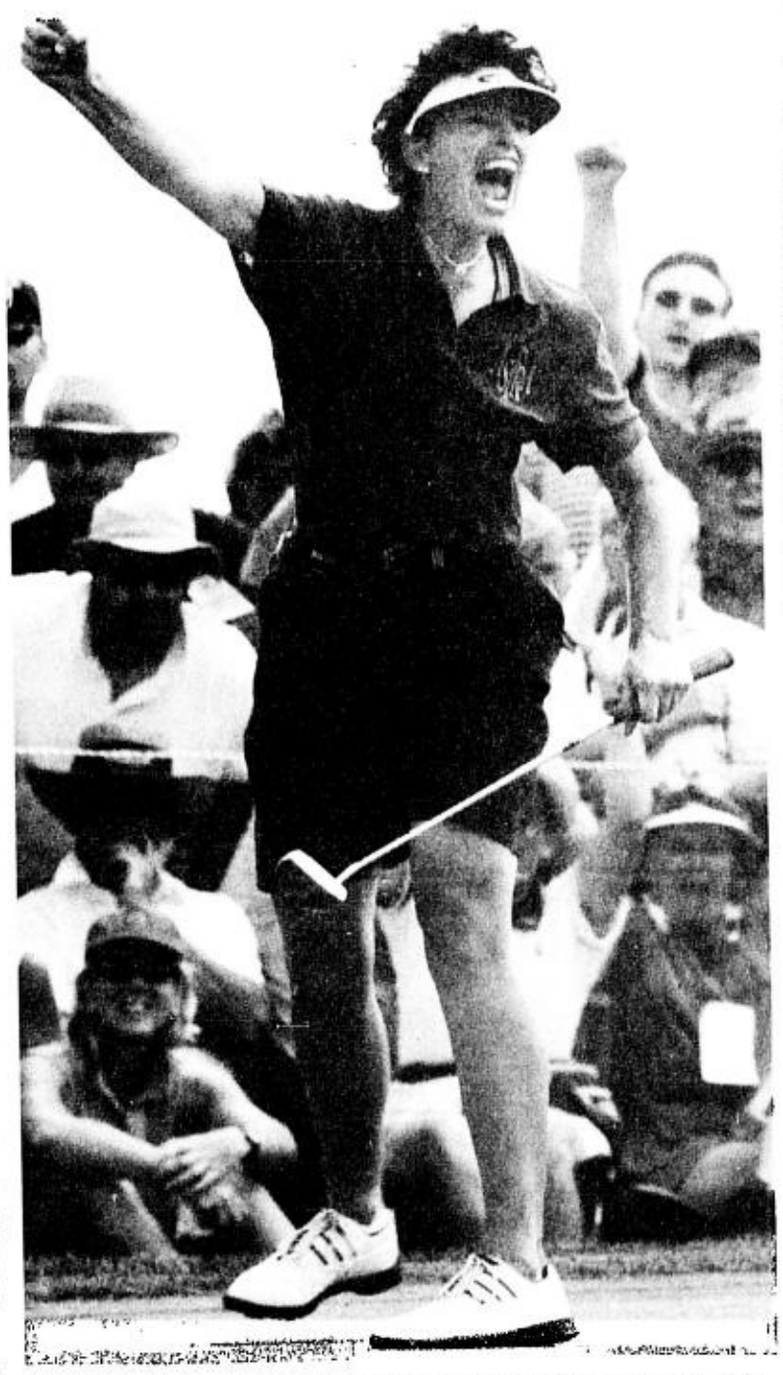
Peter Musngi, ABS-CBN vice president for sports, said the UAAP has proven a good product for Studio 23. "The full force of ABS-CBN with the synergy of the different divisions will continue to help the promotion of the league," Musngi said in yesterday's press conference at the Eugenio Lopez Jr. Communication Center at Quezon City.

Ateneo tackles NU in the nightcap at 4 p.m.

Ateneo is fielding a lineup which recently won the PBL Chairman's Cup. Four rookies—Dominic Banal, Doug Kramer, John Intal and Marc Anthony Escalona—will see action for the Blue Eagles, who are aiming to end the supremacy of the La Salle Archers.

UST and Adamson collide at 2 p.m. on Sunday following the La Salle-FEU tussle at 4 p.m.

Dennis U. Eroa



INKSTER rejoices after making a birdie on the 16th hole of the Prairie Dunes Country Club course during the final round of the US Women's Open. Inkster won with a four-under-par 276. AP

Rosales earns P4 million

By Jong Arcano

ROSALES

JENNY Rosales picked up her biggest paycheck so far as a professional after she finished tied for seventh in the $2.9 million US Women's Open with a two-under-par 68 Sunday (Monday morning in Manila) in the final round at the windswept Prairie Dunes Country Club in Hutchinson, Kansas.

Playing as a qualifier from the Illinois sectional, Rosales sustained her hot form in recent weeks to finish with a 287 aggregate which gave the former US NCAA individual champion a whopping $78,016 (about P3.9 million) payoff.

The huge paycheck almost doubled her earnings this season to $160,923 (about P8 million). Her 12th place showing in the same event in 2000 had gotten Rosales her biggest pay of $55,354, a little bigger than the $49,817 she got for her best finish in the LPGA.

Since brother Gerald took over as caddie, Rosales' fortunes in the LPGA have taken a positive direction. Rosales had made the cut in the last three LPGA events and had banked about $100,000 in prize money. Her swing coach Bong Lopez was also on hand to help her for the big battle.

Now, Rosales need not worry about going through qualifying again for a slot in the US Open next year.

She was among those who earned automatic exemptions for placing among the Top 20.

Expected to barge into the Top 30 from her current position of 56th in the money list, Rosales has also secured her playing card for the 2003 season. A regular LPGA campaigner needs at least $90,000 in winnings each season to retain her card.

Meanwhile, Dorothy Delasin turned in her best round in three days of one-over 71 and gained a tie for 64th spot. She won $7,084 but was overtaken in the money list by Rosales.

FINAL SCORES

Juli Inkster, $535,000	67-72-71-66-276
A. Sorenstam, $315,000	70-69-69-70-278
Shani Waugh, $202,568	67-73-71-72-283
Raquel Carriedo, $141,219	75-71-72-66-284
Se Ri Pak, $114,370	74-75-68-68-285
Mhairi McKay, $101,421	70-75-71-70-286
J. Rosales, $78,016	**73-72-74-68-287**
Kelli Kuehne, $78,016	70-76-72-69-287
Beth Daniel, $78,016	71-76-71-69-287
Laura Diaz, $78,016	67-72-77-71-287
Janice Moodie, $78,016	71-72-71-73-287
Kelly Robbins, $54,201	71-74-74-69-288
Joanne Morley, $54,201	78-68-73-69-288
Rachel Teske, $54,201	75-71-72-70-288
Dorothy Delasin, $7,084	**76-73-78-71-298**

Inkster rules Open with closing 66

HUTCHINSON, Kansas—Juli Inkster whipped the Kansas crowd into a frenzy at every turn in the US Women's Open, the cheers becoming more deafening with every crucial putt she made.

When the greatest round in her Hall of Fame career was over and her second Open title was all but assured, she jogged up the hill next to the 18th green, slapping hands with a gallery that was caving in around her.

Some of them were at Prairie Dunes when Inkster, then a 20-year-old newlywed, won the first of her three straight US Women's Amateur titles.

Twenty-two years and two daughters later, she is just as tough, just as tenacious and still packs a short game that ranks among the best.

"This one was a lot tougher, but a lot more satisfying," Inkster said after closing with a 4-under 66 for a two-stroke victory Sunday over Annika Sorenstam.

"The crowd was phenomenal, and I fed off that," she said. "To beat the best player in the world, you don't get an opportunity to do that often."

Facing a two-stroke deficit against the most dominant player in her game, Inkster won the US Women's Open by matching the best closing round by a champion in the 57-year history of the championship.

Inkster had been struggling with her swing all week, keeping alive her chances with grit and determination, not to mention a putter that she needed only 25 times each of the final two rounds. *AP*

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1992, Gabriel Garcia knocked out Ronnie Romero in the first round to retain his bantamweight title in the Luzon Professional Boxers Association tournament in Boracay. Also today in 1997, Leiet Briones clocked 52.03 to rule the sixth leg of the Race Motor Sports Club Nissan Valvoline Slalom Runoff at the Luneta parade grounds.

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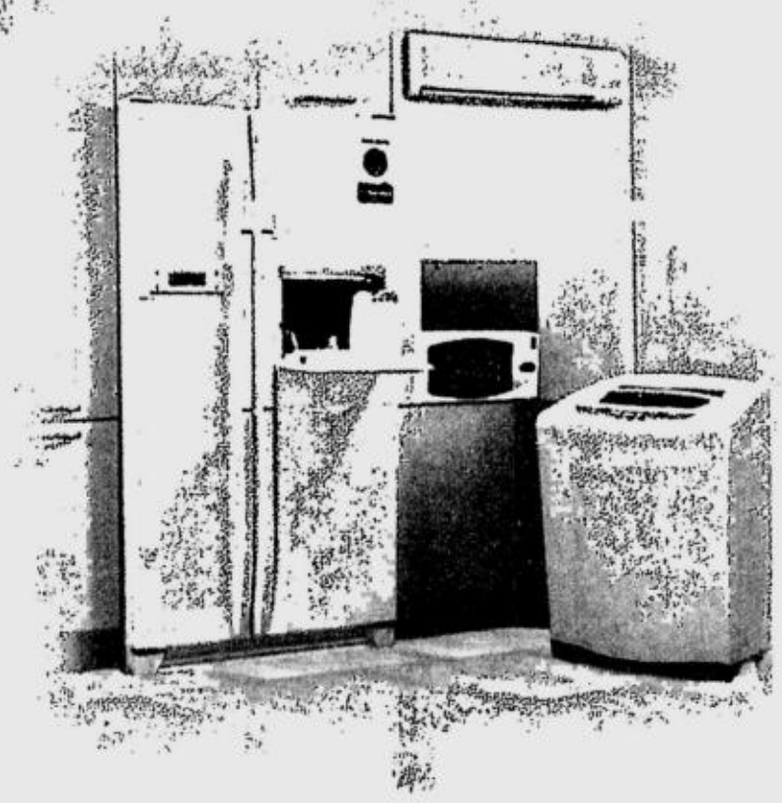
SAMSUNG goes all-out for Philippine Sports



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■ 91 concessionaires owe Nayon P5 M, says Planas /A22
■ Bong Revilla stages his first raid /A22

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

■ Bring on another hostage drama and we're ready, say Pasay cops /A22

HARDY BEASTS
Neither rains nor the swollen Marikina River can drive away these carabaos from their riverside grazing area. The concrete animals, as well as a house-size shoe upstream, were set up by former mayor Bayani Fernando. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Man dies trying to save young girl

By Philip C. Tubeza

COMPUTER shop operator Paolo A. Lopez died last week while helping a girl who was electrocuted near the University of Sto. Tomas in Sampaloc, Manila.

Lopez, of Sisa Street, Sampaloc, died after rescuing 13-year-old student Jastin Turiano, said Detective Carol Macawile of the Western Police District homicide section.

Jastin and her elder sister Maria Joan Turiano were walking when Jastin stepped into a puddle in front of Lopez's computer

MAN DIES/ A22

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Sidewalk obstacles torn down

By Leila Salaverria

THE METRO Manila Development Authority has mobilized work teams to start removing obstructions on sidewalks, starting with those in front of bus terminals, even as MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando urged residents to take the initiative in dismantling the obstructions.

In a news conference yesterday, Fernando said the agency started with the bus terminals because a lot of people go there.

"We have mobilized people," he said. "They will demolish everything that blocks buses and pedestrians."

Plant boxes, signboards, stalls and other sidewalk obstacles that block people's way will be removed, he said.

The clearing of sidewalks in front of bus stations is part of Fernando's campaign to clean up sidewalks so pedestrians could use them again instead of spilling over onto the streets.

The MMDA chair said they would soon undertake similar operations, but added that it would be better if residents themselves started to remove the hindrances.

"I have given them advanced notice so the people can't say they were not given time," Fernando said.

He said that initially, a special demolition team would be removing the obstructions. Later, the MMDA enforcers would be in charge of clearing their areas of responsibility.

Barely a week after he was appointed MMDA chair, Fernando said he would clear the sidewalks of vendors, structures like food stalls, billboards, flower boxes and signboards, illegally parked cars, barangay halls and squatter shanties in an effort to ease traffic in Metro Manila.

"They are blocking the way of pedestrians," Fernando said. "They are blocking the way to safety."

He said sidewalks in subdivisions will also be cleared of trees, plants, extended fences, parked vehicles, and other obstructions.

The former Marikina mayor said clearing the sidewalks of obstructions would be like "hitting two birds with one stone."

"We will have a very good solution to our traffic problem and we will see a cleaner Metro Manila," he said.

Meanwhile, the full impact of the MMDA'S no-left-turn policy has yet to be felt after classes and work in government offices were suspended on Monday because of the floods in the metropolis.

The policy was implemented starting Saturday at the Kamias-Kamuning, Timog-East Avenue and Santolan-Boni Serrano intersections along Edsa, as well as in some portions of C-5 Road.

Engineering is answer to floods, says engineer

By Leila Salaverria

THE MAN tasked with easing the country's perennial headache said yesterday that the long-term solution lies in "good engineering, first and foremost."

"It's got to be good engineering, first and foremost, good design, right construction and good maintenance," Metro Manila Develop-

ENGINEERING/ A22

PAGCOR in Action

On the street where they live... literally!

Bahay-kalinga para sa mga street children handog ng pamahalaan ni Presidente Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo sa tulong ng PAGCOR

Who brings that proverbial ray of hope into the lives of street children? PAGCOR follows the lead of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in saving street children from the harsh reality of street life and sending them to a place they can call their own. PAGCOR has been supporting half-way homes and daycare centers through President Arroyo's Social Fund and the Early Childhood Care and Development Program. The street children are provided decent meals and warm beds for the night. They also undergo skills training and education to give them a chance for a better life.

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Bring on another hostage drama and we're ready, say Pasay cops

By Christian V. Esguerra

AFTER TAKING a 20-day refresher course on hostage crisis management in Subic, Pasay policemen are now "confident and more solid".

They returned to work on Saturday and are raring to clear their names after the bungled rescue of 4-year-old Dexter Balala in May, according to Insp. Jose Jovenal, chief of the Tactical Operations Center.

He said they are confident they can now pull off a hostage rescue successfully.

"I believe we are ready to face any crisis at this point," Jovenal told reporters yesterday. "Unlike before, everybody now knows his role in crisis management."

Jovenal described the Subic training as "fruitful and highly beneficial," especially for some officers who "somehow lacked discipline."

The TOC chief admitted that some officers initially resented the training, saying they were not supposed to suffer for the blunder committed by their fellow policemen.

They were referring to the 22 officers, headed by ex-Pasay chief Eduardo de la Cerna, who were suspended for mishandling Balala's rescue.

De la Cerna, who acted as ground commander, was later forced to resign, while seven policemen were dismissed. The rest were cleared of any administrative liability.

"Soon the officers realized the value of the training, that it was meant to make us more efficient and responsive to any crisis," Jovenal said.

In Subic, the trainees had to wake up at 4 a.m. daily in time for the morning exercises, Jovenal said. They retired at about 6 p.m. after a day of intense training, he said.

One of several resource persons, a human rights lawyer, advised the policemen that their response to a hostage crisis should be proportionate to the force exerted by the hostage taker, according to Jovenal.

"If, say, a hostage taker were brandishing a knife, the lawyer said we don't have to shoot the man," Jovenal said. "Neutralizing him with the use of a club would be enough."

Three days before the end of the course, the policemen had the rare chance to unwind with a few bottles of beer and cigarettes, Jovenal said.

METROBRIEFS

Shabu den in Muntinlupa

MEMBERS of the Muntinlupa police drug enforcement unit yesterday arrested Imelda Infante, 34, for allegedly renting out her shanty to be used as a drug den, police said. Infante is believed to be among several residents of Barangay Poblacion who allow drug users to use their shanties for shabu sessions in exchange for P5 to P10, said SPO2 Giovanni Martinez. Several alleged drug users and pushers escaped during the operation, but policemen managed to seize 0.2 grams of shabu from Infante, Martinez said. Police had been monitoring the activities of Infante and her neighbors, who lived in shanties along the Philippine National Railway tracks in Poblacion, after they received a tip that shabu sessions were held there last month. Martinez said the area is just across the barangay hall. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Shootout in Cubao

PO1 MANUEL Patino was seriously injured Sunday after he shot it out with a band of robbers in Cubao, Quezon City. Patino, 30, assigned to the Central Police District Criminal and Investigation Unit, was on patrol with his partner PO3 Rubino Molina on Aurora Boulevard when they heard there was a robbery in progress. At about 10:45 p.m., the patrolmen chanced upon four men who fired at their mobile unit, hitting Patino at the corner of Aurora Boulevard and Yale Street. The wounded lawman was taken to the Quirino Hospital for treatment, police said. *Alcuin Papa*

Stabbing in Sta. Cruz

DESPITE heavy rains, suspected drug user Ronald V. August, 27, went out of his way allegedly to buy shabu in Manila Friday. He wound up dead in the rain that night. August, a billiard hall worker, of Doroteo Jose Street, Sta Cruz, Manila, and his wife, Michelle, braved the flood to look for their drug supplier in an alley in front of the Philippine Rabbit Bus terminal on Oroquieta Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila at about 8 p.m. Friday, said Detective Alfredo C. Salazar of the Western Police District. When the couple saw another drug dependent known only as Michael, August joked that Michael had been buying drugs every night. Michael stabbed August in the chest, policemen said. *Philip Tubeza*

Throat cut in Project 4

SECURITY guard Darwin Liposan was found dead at his post in Quezon City Sunday. Police believed Liposan, 28, a member of the Litegaurd Security Agency and a resident of Caloocan City, was a victim of an "agaw-armas gang." Liposan was discovered dead at 5:45 a.m. Sunday by a worker of the Villapore Industries factory on J.P. Rizal Street in Barangay San Roque, Project 4, Quezon City. The worker told police that Liposan's throat was cut while his body was bruised all over. Investigators later found that the victim's .38-caliber pistol was missing. *Alcuin Papa*

Shooting in Tondo

POLICE are hunting down "Amay Bisaya" and two other men for killing a streetsweeper in Manila Saturday morning. The namesake of the comedian and his accomplices killed Mariano B. Ignacio, 48, of Zaragosa Street, Tondo, Manila, said Detective Virgo Villareal of the Western Police District. Villareal said Bisaya and his companions used a *sumpak*, or homemade shotgun, to shoot Ignacio in the back at 12:15 a.m. Saturday on Padre Rada Street, Tondo. Policemen were having a hard time investigating the killing because the vendors who were with Ignacio refused to talk, Villareal said. *Leila Salaverria, Philip Tubeza*

Roundup in Quezon City

SEVEN suspected members of a robbery gang were rounded up on the corner of Kamuning and Edsa in Quezon City yesterday morning, police said. Chito Mendoza, 31, Danilo Reyes, 27, Edmund Guzman, 30, Russel Dicapil, 32, Dionisio Gaoy, 32, Allan Haveno, 32, and Reynaldo Monte, 30, were said to be members of the "Ipit Gang" that prey on commuters, police said. They operate by pressing against unsuspecting commuters while other gang members pick the victims' pockets. Police said a bus conductor recognized one of the suspects and reported it to the authorities. Lawmen from the Kamuning station arrested the suspects, police said. *Alcuin Papa*

Robbery in Malate

TWO robbers held up Equitable-PCIB bank manager Dominador Francisco in Malate, Manila, yesterday. One of the suspects escaped with P25,000 while the other, Allan M. Sansalona, 29, of San Miguel Street, Quiapo, was arrested, said Detective Mario Torrente of the Western Police District. Francisco, 47, was held up at 11 a.m. just in front of the Equitable-PCI Bank Century Park branch at the corner of Adriatico and Pablo Ocampo streets in Malate, Torrente said. The suspects, armed with homemade .38-caliber revolvers, fired warning shots, pushed the bank manager to the ground and took the money, police said. WPD patrolmen on board mobile unit 302 arrived and joined bank security guards Raymund Saglin and Gregorio Cabadin in chasing the suspects, and caught Sansalona in front of the nearby Metrobank branch, Torrente said. *Philip Tubeza*

REAL-LIFE VRB chair Revilla (left) inspects the pirated VCDs together with PNP chief Ebdane (middle) and CIDG chief Gualberto. DENNIS SABANGAN

91 concessionaires owe Nayon ₱5M, says Planas

By Christian V. Esguerra

CHARITO Planas yesterday bared what she said should silence Nayong Pilipino concessionaires who have unleashed a deluge of charges against her: a list of their debts.

Documents released by the park director showed that the 91 concessionaires have a standing balance of P4.8 million.

"They have no business making all these accusations since they do not even pay their dues," Planas told reporters.

Three of the concessionaires—Rose Brondial, Ruth Barraquio, and Evelyn de la Cruz—have a combined debt of P186,000 as of June 30 this year, according to the status report prepared by Leticia Maestrado, chief of Nayon's finance division.

Brondial, Barraquio, and De la Cruz led about 30 concessionaires in filing graft and contempt charges against Planas for the allegedly illegal closure of Nayong Pilipino on June 25.

Planas said the contract of the three concessionaires expired as early as 1989 but park management has been allowing them to rent "out of tolerance" the Visayan Regions of the theme park.

"If I were a bad director, I would have easily booted them out because their contracts had long expired," she said.

The concessionaires, led by their lawyer Oliver Lozano, launched a legal assault which Planas said was "only aimed at gaining publicity" for the lawyer. "Lozano had not been in the news for a long time," she said. "He wants to get into the picture at my expense."

Planas is set to meet Lozano and the concessionaires tomorrow during the hearing on the petition for preliminary injunction on the closure of Nayon.

Lozano and his group are asking the court to stop the closure, saying it went against Presidential Decree No. 37 which created Nayon in 1972.

Planas said the closure was legal because no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo authorized it by issuing Executive Order No. 111.

The closure, she said, also sought to satisfy the safety requirements of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

Rizal town mayor warns of new garbage crisis if dump is shut

By Leila Salaverria and Nelson F. Flores

PLANS TO transport Metro Manila's garbage to Southern Luzon by railway are falling into place and may take effect in a year's time, according to Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando.

But if the MMDA-PNR tie-up happens, the solid waste disposal facility in Rodriguez town in Rizal might have to be shut down, according to Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo.

Fernando yesterday said the Philippine National Railways is "very willing to participate in this project."

"The PNR has the equipment," he said in a news conference. "Only a little refurbishing and overhauling is needed (for the trains). They have flat cars and old rails for line extensions. They have the engineers and the experience."

He said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is now looking for a 2,000-hectare land on which to dump Metro Manila's garbage.

Aside from easing the garbage problem of the metropolis, the plan will also be good for the PNR because it will earn additional income, Fernando said.

Rodriguez Mayor Cuerpo yesterday said he might close the landfill at the end of the month since he no longer has any funds to continue its operations.

Cuerpo said that the MMDA neglected to settle its P46-million debt to the municipal government despite repeated demands. The Manila City government alone owes Rodriguez P54 million, he said.

He said that even the national government failed to release the P119-million development assistance it promised to the Rodriguez municipal government in exchange for the operation of the dumpsite, which opened on Jan. 17. He said Malacañang released only about P15 million.

About 2,500 tons of the approximately 6,000 tons of waste that Metro Manila produces daily are dumped in the Rodriguez facility every day, Cuerpo said. Its closure would severely affect garbage collection in Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela, Manila, Pasay, Parañaque, Taguig, San Juan, Mandaluyong, Pasig and Pateros, he added.

Manila and Quezon City have Pier 18 and Payatas dumpsites, while Marikina, Las Piñas and Muntinlupa have "their own means of disposing garbage," he said.

Engineering is answer to floods ...

From page A21

ment Authority Chair Bayani Fernando said when he was asked about his long-term solution to the flood situation.

He was recently given the responsibility after two days of heavy rains submerged most parts of Metro Manila. The Department of Public Works and Highways was originally in charge of flood control.

Fernando had said in an earlier interview that the indiscriminate dumping of garbage caused the flood in some areas, but he also said yesterday that the DPWH was "somehow" responsible.

He said he and DPWH officials have yet to flesh out the details of the transfer of responsibility, but that it is necessary for some of the department's personnel and resources to be transferred to the MMDA.

Fernando is an engineer and the former mayor of Marikina, touted to be one of the cleanest and most disciplined cities in Metro Manila even if it is flood-prone.

Despite the mammoth task facing him, Fernando said he is "not daunted."

"It's a big task," he said in a news conference yesterday. "I'm not daunted by (the flood situation) because I feel this can be best done by the 17 mayors of Metro Manila and the MMDA."

He said he welcomes the added responsibility because it is related to the MMDA's other responsibilities, which is urban planning, garbage control, traffic control and public safety.

One of his initial concerns regarding the flood was the safety of residents of flooded areas, which are usually populated by informal settlers.

"In areas where it's close to impossible to remove flooding, let's inform the people (of the situation) and remove them instead of trying to defy nature, " he said, adding "there has to be monitoring and timely evacuation."

He said dikes would be built in flood-prone places like the Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela) and Taguig-Pateros areas, but it would take a long time for these to be finished.

Bong Revilla stages his first raid

By Leah Salterio

ACTION star Bong Revilla Jr., the newly appointed chief of the Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB), last Saturday swooped down on the Quiapo barter center which is notorious for pirated videos.

In his first public anti-piracy action as VRB chief, Revilla said he and his team confiscated 1.7 million pirated VCDs and DVDs worth P85 million.

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Hermogenes Ebdane described the haul as a "major accomplishment."

The pirated merchandise was presented to the media yesterday afternoon at the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Revilla was not surprised that the fake discs included his latest movie, "Kilabot at Kembot."

The raiders also confiscated TV monitors and sound amplifiers used by the vendors.

It was the biggest haul in a single operation, according to Gen. Nestorio Gualberto, chief of the PNP's Criminal Investigation Division Group (CIDG) which supported the anti-piracy drive.

The raiding team included the VRB Task Force Unit, officers of the Western Police District (WPD) led by Col. Pedro Bulaong, and members of the Presidential Security Group (PSG).

Revilla said an unprecedented 342 search warrants were issued by Pasig Regional Trial Court Judge Alfredo Flores. Col. Albert Patrimonio of the CIDG served the warrants.

The Philippine Association of the Records Industry (Pari), led by chair Danilo Olivares, also supported the raids.

"I'll make sure that by the end of the year, the VRB will have confiscated 60 percent of pirated merchandise in the country," Revilla vowed.

Other members of the entertainment industry showed up at the news conference to show support for Revilla. They included actors Joyce Jimenez, Albert Martinez, Bobby Andrews, Ara Mina, Tootsie Guevarra and Maricar de Mesa; violinist John Lesaca; film producer Vic del Rosario and son Vincent of Viva Films; recording executives Ricky Ilacad of Warner Music, Ramon Chuaying and Bella Dy-Tan of Universal, Wally Chamsay of Sony Music, JV Colayco of EMI-Philippines; and William Lao of the Anti-Piracy Council of the Philippines.

LOPEZ JOAN BONDOC

Man dies trying ...

From page A21

store at the corner of Dapitan and Quintos streets at about 8:30 p.m. Saturday, according to Macawile.

Jastin told her elder sister to stop because she felt electricity flow into her ankle, the detective said.

An exposed electrical wire was touching the pool of water, Macawile said. The wire came from the house beside Lopez's computer shop, she added.

Jastin then fell unconscious when the electricity surged through her body. Her sister cried out for help, and Lopez heard her.

Lopez rushed out of his computer shop, grabbed Jastin and pulled her away from the water.

"But Lopez was also electrocuted and he also fell unconscious," Detective Macawile said.

Lopez and Jastin were brought to the Santo Tomas University Hospital where, however, Lopez was declared dead on arrival.

Jastin is still in the hospital's intensive care unit. Lopez's remains are lying in state at the Arlington Funeral Homes in Quezon City.

"I wasn't able to talk to his relatives because his mother and sister were hysterical," Macawile said. "His mother Lourdes had to be taken to the hospital because she collapsed."

The Inquirer learned that Lopez became the family breadwinner after his father died.

Catering seminar

THE PRO-ACTIVE Center for Training (Pact) is conducting a seminar-workshop on managing a catering business on July 15-24 at Bedas Restaurant on C-5, Libis, Quezon City.

The training includes lectures and hands-on workshops.

For reservations, call 787-6370 or (0917) 550-0601, or e-mail pactserv@info.com.ph.

Only 20 participants will be accepted. Seminar fee is P4,500, inclusive of food, field trip, manual, certificate of completion and other workshop materials.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Why many animated features lose money

ANIMATED feature films have been making so much money lately that many more producers are planning full-length cartoon productions of their own.

But the people behind Disney's "Lilo & Stitch," the latest animated production to hit it big at the box office, caution these new producers to look before they leap.

Co-directors **Dean DeBlois** and **Chris Sanders** point out that Disney's major animated movie last summer, "Atlantis," cost $125 million to make and market, but made only $83 million.

"The Emperor's New Groove," released in December 2000, cost even more but earned about the same. So, to avoid also ending up in the red, before even starting work on "Lilo & Stitch," the co-directors decided to figure out why so many animated features had flopped at the box office.

They saw that many animated features produced by Disney had the same elements that viewers had already seen for years. So, they decided to "break the mold" as often as they could.

Thus, "Lilo & Stitch" is different from the usual Disney animated productions. Its visuals are less traditionally sweet and cute, and so are its principal characters:

Lilo, a Hawaiian girl who can pick a fight, is no Snow White, and Stitch, her alien companion in disguise, is no Bambi. He's like E.T. with a devilish temperament, a hyperactive gremlin with a demolition complex.

Nothing can tame him—except the unconditional love of lonely little Lilo, who is rejected by her peers and causes no end of trouble for her family.

Despite the changes in terms of images and characterization, however, the movie's theme is still par for the course for a Disney production—the sanctity and healing qualities of family. Stitch has none, and Lilo has turned off hers, and yet they are eventually able to form a family of their own.

'Tick Tick Boom!'

JETT Pangan, **Bituin Escalante** and **Michael de Mesa** topbill the musical, "Tick Tick Boom!" written by "Rent's" **Jonathan Larson**.

The new production is a semi-autobiographical rock musical about an artist striving to write the show that will redefine the

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

musical-theater landscape before he turns 30.

It had a critically-acclaimed run off-Broadway, and will soon tour the US. It was singled out by Time magazine as one of the best musicals of 2001. The Manila production premieres at the RCBC Theater on July 26 and runs until Aug. 11. Call 892-7078.

'Design 360'

EVERY Sunday at 1:30 p.m. on CNN, **Hala Gorani** lifts the lid off the complex world of design in "Design 360." Seeking out experts in every field from architecture to appliances, from fashion to football, the show travels across Europe to investigate the creative process, the social context, and the business of design.

A feature of every program is Gorani's interview with one of the great names from the world of design—**Ian Schrager**, **Rem Koolhaas**, **Sebastian Conran**, **Phillip Starck**, etc.

Vote for Giselle Sanchez

NO, she isn't running for public office. The brainy and sexy comedienne and singer is asking you to vote for her online by logging in at www.the-revengers.com/v2/?id=5772.

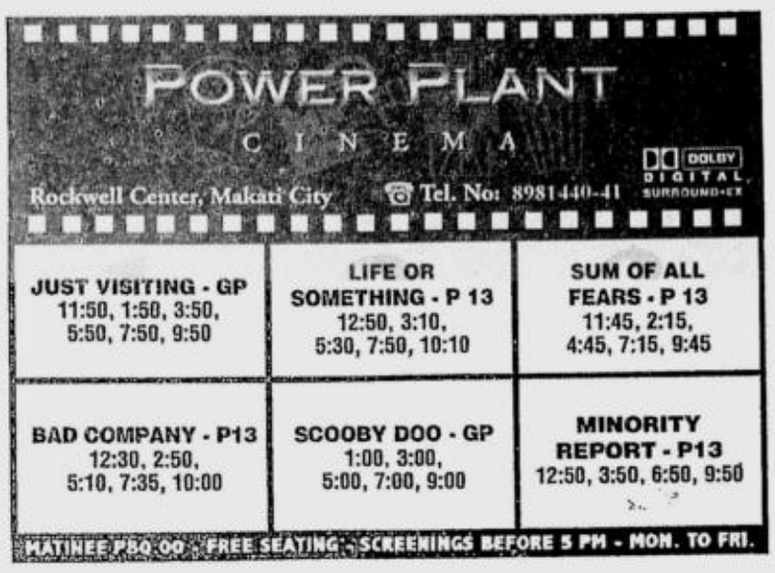
This is the web page of the-revengers.com, an online casting audition for a TV series in the United States where the people with the highest votes get to be in the top 10, and get a chance to go for the real audition in Hollywood.

A Filipino actor-friend of **Giselle** in New York, **Jorge Bailos**, posted her picture on the website, and interest turned out to be keen. With your online votes, she could land in the top 10.

If you can't go via the link, you can do it step by step: First, log on to www.the-revengers.com. Next, vote for the role of Kate, the character Giselle auditioned for. Then click on to the 10 newest pictures. Upon finding Giselle's picture, vote for her. The higher her score, the better her chances of getting the role.

Meanwhile, Giselle is very busy doing shows here and abroad. She's just come back from Japan, where she had a three-night comedy show to mark the opening of Club 38, a disco in Tokyo owned by Filipino **Antonio P. Antonio**.

Luckily, Giselle was in Japan in time for the World Cup Finals, so she was so happy to be able to dance the samba with the Brazilians after their victory against Germany!



Who's the fairest of the E! Philippines hosts?

COUNTLESS new faces pop up on the boob tube, but not all are guaranteed success and fame.

Who's the fairest of them all? Could it be the new E! Philippines girl, **Chinna Jocson**?

Chinna, a former MBA sportscaster, was discovered by E! Philippines big boss **Lito Cruz**. The 22-year-old is a communication and creative writing graduate. She hosts "Eksena," which airs four times a day, twice on primetime, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. The only locally produced show on E! Philippines, "Eksena" features movie premieres, fashion shows, parties

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

and launches.

A go-getter, Chinna called E! Philippines to inquire if there was any audition coming up.

"I'm an E! fanatic," she says. "One day while I was glued to E! I noticed that they hardly had any hosts so I took a chance and called them if there was any opening. I was shocked when they told me to go to their office. They gave me a screen test and before I knew it I was hired!"

The other E! hosts are **Claudine Trillo** and **Lana Asanin**. Claudine is all set to marry cager **Jason Webb** this November.

The three hosts do not sign contracts with E! Philippines. Their shows are closely monitored by E! LA, so Chinna, Lana and Claudine have to be always on their toes. It's like every show is an audition. Chinna, with her confidence and appeal, has nowhere to go but up.

Happy birthday, Ces

CES Drilon has no qualms about turning 40. She does not even look it.

When Ces and I had an animated girl's talk, she said, "That life begins at 40 may be a cliché but it's true. Most of the popular Hollywood stars bloom when they hit 40. When I start to feel old, I snap out of it by reminding myself that if the likes of **Meg Ryan** and **Annette Bening** can still look fab at 40, all women can! It's not because they have the money and the power. It all boils down to the right attitude. And of course women must be able to take care of themselves in every sense of the word."

Ces will be celebrating her 40th with a bang! It coincides with the opening of her bookstore cum art gallery, Mag:Net, on July 10 at 6:30 p.m. at The Loop, 9501 ELJ Center, ABS-CBN Compound. The gallery will showcase the masterpieces of Ces' hubby **Rock Drilon**, **Juan Alcazaren** and **Bernardo Pacquing**.

A highlight of the affair is a poetry reading session. I'm thrilled that Ces chose me to be a reader, along with **Tina Monzon-Palma**, **Pia Guanio**, **Tin-Tin Bersola** and other friends of Ces. She says I represent the naughty side of women so I came up with an irreverently zany poem.

C'est la vie ala Ces! *Vivre* Drilon!

True Faith

TRUE Faith is almost 10 years in the business and still going strong. Aside form its best-selling albums, True Faith is also known for its commercial and TV show jingles. The voice of lead vocalist and composer **Medwin Marfil** is music for the soul. I personally listen to their CDs day in and day out. True Faith's songs are my wake-uppers in the morning, my adrenaline shot in the afternoon and my lullaby at night.

Catch True Faith in a one-night show presented by Maxi-Media International. The band will have **Gary Ignacio**, the lead singer of Alamid, as special guest. Tickets at P300 and P500 are now available at all Ticketworld outlets at all major National Bookstore branches, Tower Records Makati and Alabang and Maximedia, 551-8999. See you at Greenbelt Onstage. To hear is to believe and to have True Faith.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

JOCSON

After 25 years, Gantimpala still needs 'home'

GANTIMPALA Theater Foundation presents a star-studded celebration when the theater group marks its 25th anniversary with a special show at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on July 26.

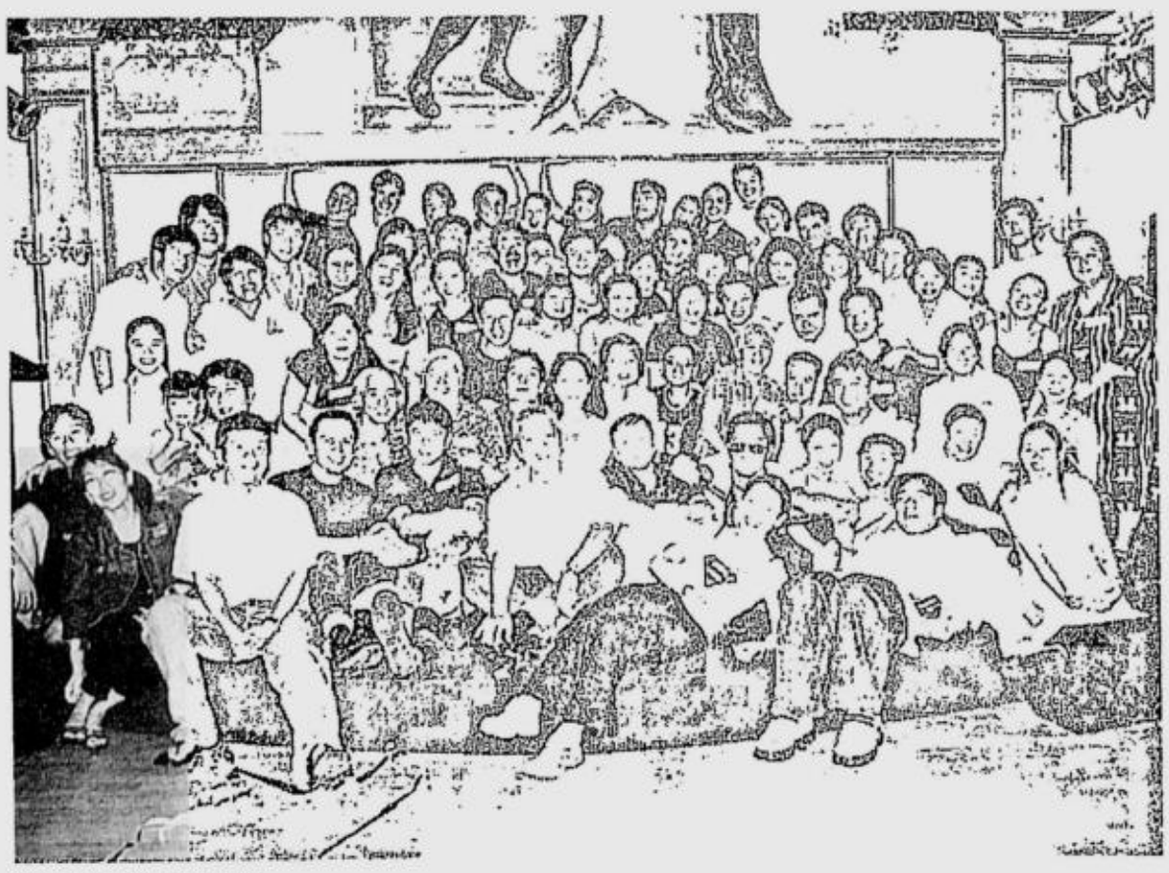
The anniversary show, "A Silver Harvest," will feature Gantimpala Theater Foundation's valuable contributions to Philippine theater, a medley of theater-inspired songs and dances, with a stellar line-up of theater, film and TV actors who have graced the Gantimpala theater stage.

Among those expected to attend are Beverly Salviejo, Christopher de Leon, Pen Medina, Earl Ignacio, Gigette Reyes, Irma Adlawan, Ricky Davao, Ronnie Lazaro, Sherry Lara, Suzette Ranillo, Johnny Delgado, Christine Bersola, Julio Diaz, Cherry Pie Picache, Mia Gutierrez, Jomar Fleras, Dinah Padilla, Adriana Agcaoili, Franny Zamora, Kimberly Diaz, Lance Raymundo, John Gaddi, Jun Pablo and Amable Quiambao.

Gantimpala Theater Foundation started as a laboratory theater at the museum gallery of the CCP. It was known then as Bulwagang Gantimpala.

"We were excited because we were doing a lot of new works," says Tony Espejo, founding director of Gantimpala.

"We experimented with different theater forms and did a lot of poetry reading. Gantimpala became a venue for new writers and actors wanting to be discovered."



GANTIMPALA actors

However, 10 years after producing classic and award-wining plays like "Katipunan," "Magsimula Ka," "Kanser," "Hiblang Abo" and the comedy "Paano Binabalatan ang Butong Pakwan," Gantimpala moved out of the CCP.

"We became victims of the Edsa Revolution and the change of power," Espejo laments. "We were doing very well at the CCP and all our plays were very successful. After the Edsa Revolt, everything and anyone that had something to do with the Marcoses had to go.

"We fought for it. Nick Tiongson, then CCP director, fought for us. He was one of our staunchest supporters. But politics prevailed."

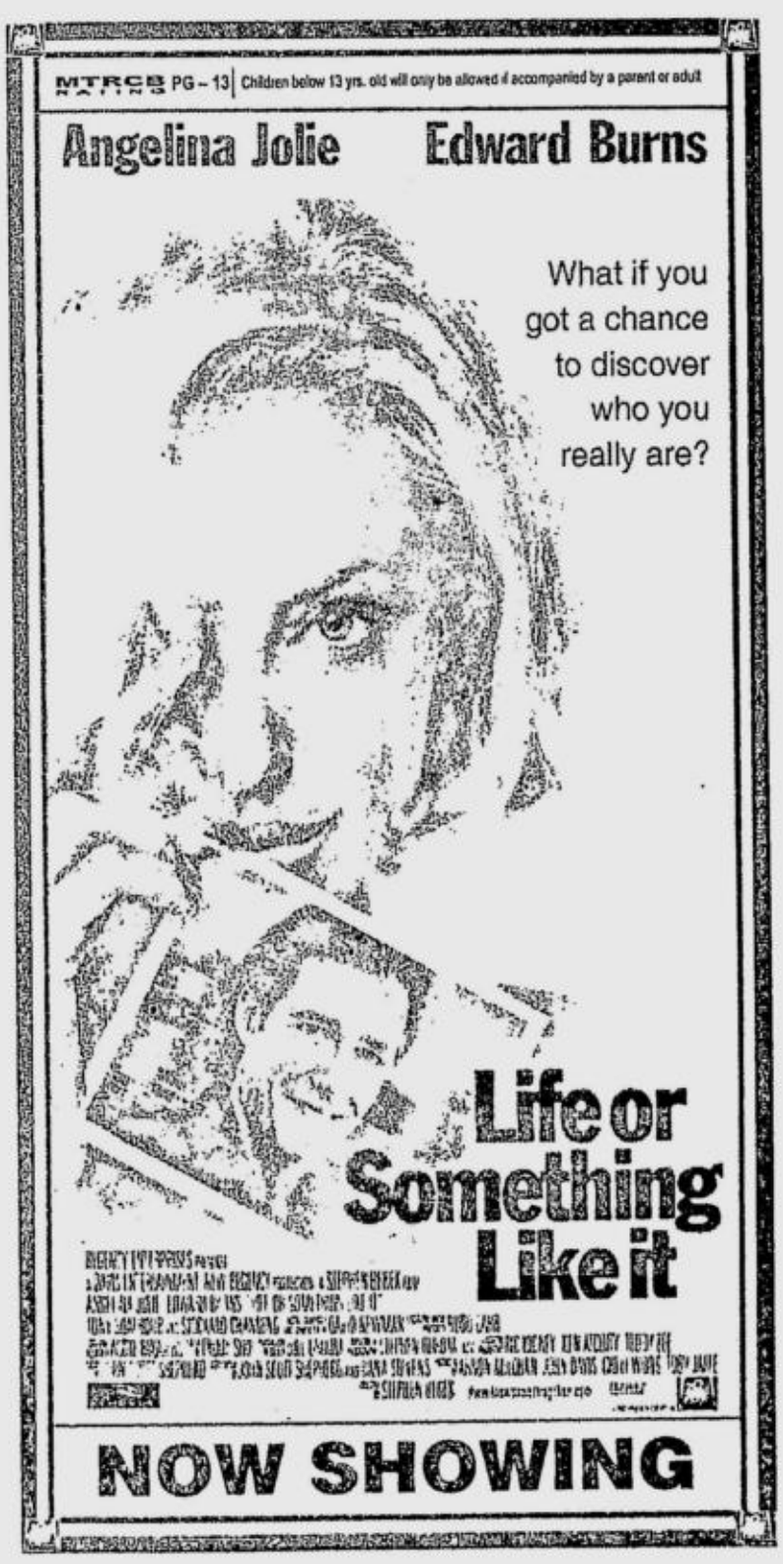
The Metropolitan Theater became Gantimpala's next home. At the Met, Gantimpala produced the plays "Noli Me Tangere," "El Filibusterismo," "Ibong Adarna" and "Florante at Laura." But Met had to close down and Gantimpala became a touring company.

Twenty-five years later, Gantimpala is still looking for a home.

"We are still surviving. We are all survivors," Espejo says. "My ultimate dream for the group is for us to have our own venue and find back our home."

In the meantime, the founding director is in the thick of preparation for the 25th anniversary show and the 25th season of Gantimpala. Plays like "Kanser," "El Fili," "Florante at Laura" and "Ibong Adarna" will be shown in the coming months in different venues like AFP Theater, St. Cecilia's Hall of St. Scholastica Manila and RFC Cinema in Las Piñas.

For more information, call 895-8314 or 0918-9212856.



For screening times, call 729-7777.
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G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC AYALA TRIANGLE TOWN CENTER
1 BAD COMPANY	1 BAD COMPANY	1 IRIS	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . . 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20	1 MINORITY REPORT
	2 JUST VISITING			
2 SLACKERS	3 MINORITY REPORT 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30	2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	2 MINORITY REPORT 11:20, 2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:20	2 BAD COMPANY
3 FOREVERMORE	4 LEGEND OF THE TITANIC	3 AMELIE	3 JUST VISITING 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	3 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
	5 SCOOBY DOO			4 SCOOBY DOO
4 MINORITY REPORT	6 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .	ONSTAGE TRUE FAITH @ ONSTAGE JULY 12 (FRI.) - 9 PM	4 BAD COMPANY 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	5 JUST VISITING
	7 THE SUM OF ALL FEARS		SUM OF ALL FEARS 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	

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5 GOLD (DOLBY) JUST VISITING
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7 GOLD (DOLBY) BAD COMPANY
8 FOREVERMORE
9 LEGEND OF TITANIC
10 SCOOBY DOO

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4 FOREVERMORE
5 KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
6 MINORITY REPORT
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8

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3 RESERVE

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A DARK DANGER

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
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2 FOREVERMORE
3 TAMPISAW
4 KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

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3 MINORITY REPORT

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4 FOREVERMORE
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Talaba Bacoor Cavite
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2 RESERVE

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3 (DTS) BAD COMPANY

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2 (DTS) FOREVERMORE
3 (DOLBY) MINORITY REPORT
4 LIFE OR SOMETHING

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3 (DTS) MINORITY REPORT
4 LIFE OR SOMETHING

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(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
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2 FOREVERMORE
3 MINORITY REPORT
4

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(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 FOREVERMORE
2 DRAGONFLY
3 (DOLBY) A WALK TO REMEMBER
4 (DTS) MINORITY REPORT

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
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3 KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
4 (DTS) RESERVE

Lianas MovieCity
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4 TAMPISAW
5 BAD COMPANY

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3 MINORITY REPORT

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3 TAMPISAW

Olivarez Tagaytay
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2
3

Morales Cinema
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3

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(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
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2 (DTS) FOREVERMORE

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3 SCOOBY DOO

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2 MURDER BY NUMBERS
3 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
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7 FOREVERMORE
8 MINORITY REPORT

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TRUE FAITH

True Faith at Onstage

AFTER 10 years in the music business, True Faith has been dubbed as the premier pop band in the country. The group has created a loyal following with such hits as "Perfect," "Kung Okay Lang sa 'Yo," "Huwag na Lang Kaya" and "Muntik Nang Maabot ang Langit."

Aside from their best-selling albums, True Faith is also known for singing commercial and TV show jingles.

Last month, the band earned a nomination for best video by a group in the 2002 MTV Pilipinas Video Music Awards for their song, "Sumasarap ang Gising."

True Faith is composed of Medwin Marfil, Jun Dizon, Bimbo Yance, Eugene Marfil, Jake Lumacad and Jay Valencia.

Maxi-Media International presents True Faith in a one-night show, July 12, 9 p.m. at Onstage in Greenbelt, Makati City.

Special guest in the show is Gary Ignacio, lead singer of Alamid, known for hits like "Your Love" and "China Eyes."

On July 13, South Border will perform at Onstage, followed by Parokya ni Edgar on July 19.

Tickets at P500 and P300 are now available at all Ticketworld outlets in major National Bookstore outlets (891-5610), Tower Records Makati and Alabang and Maxi-Media office (551-777 or 551-8999).

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ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	FOREVERMORE
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ACT-4	CLOSED
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REMAR	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
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STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DISKARTE
CINEMA-2	TAMPISAW
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CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MINORITY REPORT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SCOOBY DOO
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CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
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CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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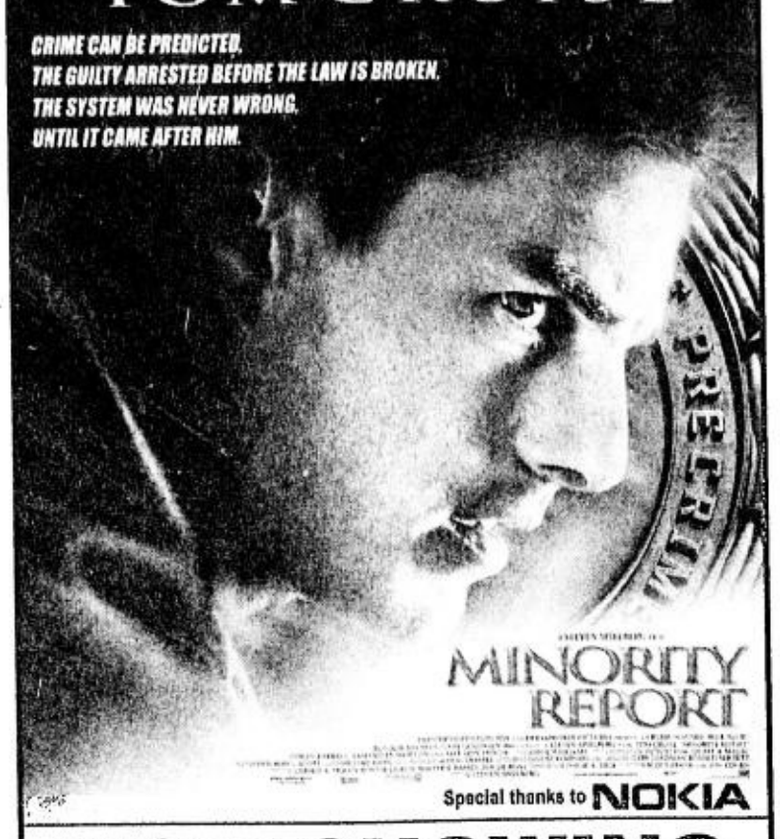

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P 13

CINEMA 2
BAD COMPANY
12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50
P 13

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MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R)
COMING SOON
The King is Alive, July 10-16

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NEXT ATTRACTION
The King is Alive, July 10-16
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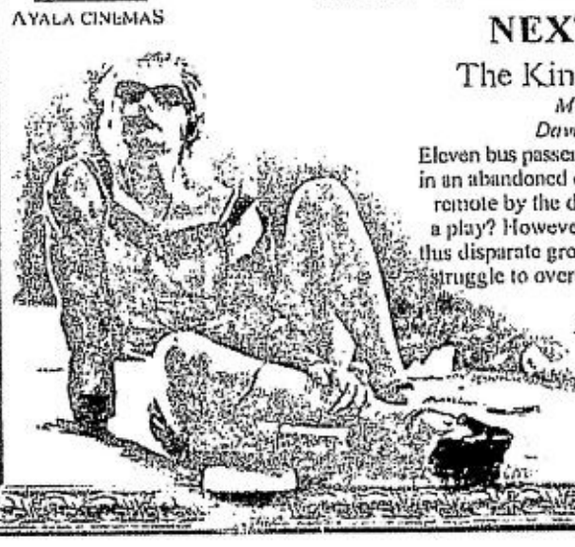

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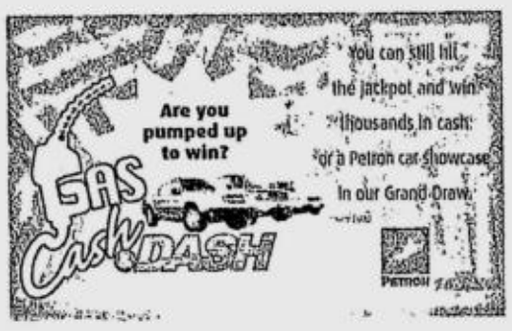


TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B1

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo & Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

MVP plan deemed 'legally impossible'

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOKONGWEI group said it was confident that the $925-million joint venture deal with First Pacific Co. Ltd., that would give the partnership controlling stakes in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Bonifacio Land Co., would be consummated by September despite the many stumbling blocks.

The group said there was no stopping its takeover bid, even if PLDT shares were now trading at barely one-third the P1,130 per share it had agreed to pay in exchange for a 67-percent stake in the joint venture.

PLDT shares dropped to an 11-year low of P307.50 last Friday before slightly rebounding to P315 yesterday.

The agreement with First Pacific allows certain adjustments based on factors that could be "materially adverse" to the Gokongwei group once a due diligence audit was conducted, but the source said changes in market price would not affect the deal.

"We had a deal and we won't seek to change the terms based on market price," the source said.

He also stressed that there was no way the deal could be stopped by the local management of PLDT and BLC parent firm Metro Pacific Corp, both led by Manuel V. Pangilinan. The source from the Gokongwei camp said it was "legally impossible" for the Pangilinan group to take out the BLC-backed loan of MPC because that would give First Pacific/Larouge BV an undue advantage over other creditors.

The source was referring to the reported strategy of the Pangilinan group to block the delivery of 24.47 percent of PLDT and 50.4 percent of BLC to the joint venture by assuming MPC's debt to First Pacific (extended through Larouge BV) amounting to $107 million plus interest and other expenses.

The loan takeout seeks to prevent the foreclosure by First Pacific of the 50.4 percent BLC equity that was used as mortgage to the loan.

The strategy aims to leave the Salims "without any other choice" but to sell out to the Pangilinan group.

Part of the plan is the formation of a consortium that will assume MPC's debt to First Pacific/Larouge BV.

"The shares are not for sale so how can they just pay off the loan," the source said. "MPC has a lot of creditors, not just Larouge," the source from the Gokongwei camp said.

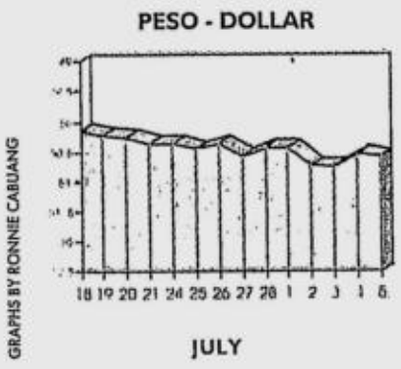
"If they want to stop it, they should pay for the PLDT shares,"

MVP/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 50.47 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 8, 2002

¥ 118.86 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 8, 2002

GOLD: $312.40/312.90

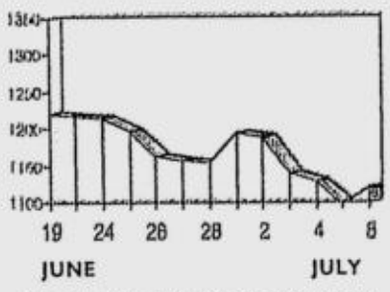
per ounce Hong Kong, July 8, 2002

July 05, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.019472	1.000000	50.6780
Japan	Yen	0.008502	0.008340	0.4227
United Kingdom	Pound	1.557447	1.527700	77.4208
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130709	0.128212	6.4975
Switzerland	Franc	0.682834	0.669792	33.9437
Canada	Dollar	0.665539	0.652827	33.0840
Singapore	Dollar	0.576625	0.565611	28.6640
Australia	Dollar	0.571133	0.560224	28.3910
Bahrain	Dinar	2.704313	2.652661	134.4316
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.271860	0.266667	13.5142
Brunei	Dollar	0.574998	0.564016	28.5832
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000114	0.000112	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.024542	0.024073	1.2200
UAE	Dirham	0.277596	0.272294	13.7993
Korea	Won	0.000854	0.000838	0.0425
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.980900	49.7101
Brazil	Real	0.355341	0.348554	17.6640
Denmark	Kroner	0.134566	0.131996	6.6893
India	Rupee	0.020921	0.020521	1.0400
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.268318	0.263193	13.3381
Mexico	New Peso	0.102433	0.100477	5.0920
New Zealand	Dollar	0.498520	0.488998	24.7814
Norway	Kroner	0.136277	0.133674	6.7743
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017006	0.016681	0.8454
South Africa	Rand	0.100552	0.098631	4.9984
Sweden	Kroner	0.109812	0.107715	5.4588
Syria	Pound	0.019834	0.019455	0.9859
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030523	0.029940	1.5173
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000787	0.000772	0.0391

STOCK MARKET

Shares rise in thin trade

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices rose 0.1 percent yesterday on a modest rebound in stocks seen as oversold, but trading was thin amid a raft of domestic concerns, dealers said.

"The market's direction is very uncertain at this point and investors want to take profit at every opportunity," Henry Ong of KGI Securities said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 1.51 points to 1,121.23.

Turnover rose to 210 million shares but value fell to P258 million compared with 159 million shares worth P360 million traded on Friday.

Continuing concerns about the country's economic outlook capped early gains, said Manny Cruz of Mark Securities Corp., citing the ballooning national government budget deficit.

"I think we'll be able to test the 1,100 level within the week," he added.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. closed P7.50 higher at P315, bouncing back from an eight-year low after the dominant carrier reported that it was making progress on debt refinancing talks.

Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. was flat at P33.50, while Ayala Corp. gained 10 centavos to close at P5.20. *AFP*

GDP seen growing 3.6-4.3%

THE PHILIPPINE economy is seen expanding 3.94 percent in 2002, driven by a steady rebound in exports and manufacturing, as well as robust farm output, according to the latest Reuters poll.

Forecasts by 10 economists for 2002 gross domestic product (GDP) growth ranged from 3.6 percent to 4.3 percent, compared with the government's forecast of 4-4.5 percent.

They also predicted, on average, economic growth of about 4.05 percent in 2003.

In 2001, GDP grew 3.4 percent and was up 3.8 percent year-on-year in the first three months this year.

A pick-up in global economic activity was starting to filter through into exports and manufacturing and this would underpin GDP this year, economists said.

"Everything except the budget numbers have been consistent with a pick-up of the economy and the global economy is a little more supportive (than last year) . . . exports seem to be on a recovery path as they are in the whole world," said MMS/S&P economist David Cohen.

Exports grew year-on-year in April and May after 15 consecutive months of declines while imports have also shown a turnaround, led by electronics components. Electronics are the country's key export, making up at least 50 percent of total goods sold abroad.

"The main driver will be coming from industry, particularly manufacturing, import growth is strengthening, and there is anecdotal evidence that ports have been very busy handling a range of goods and not just electronics," said DBS Vickers (Philippines) analyst Jomar Lacson.

Agriculture, which contributes roughly 20 percent to Philippine GDP, was also expected to remain strong after an impressive first quarter when it grew 3.81 percent year-on-year. *Reuters*

Affordable financing jacks up vehicle sales

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

VEHICLE sales rose for the third straight month in June this year as affordable financing packages and new model launches stoke buyers' interest.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. reported that sales surged 10.3 percent to 39,040 units in the first half this year from 35,379 during the same period last year.

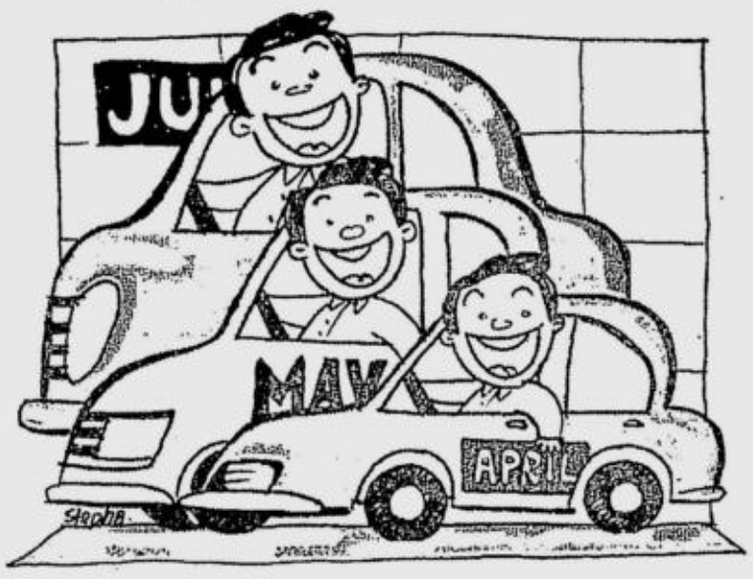
Commercial vehicles—including Asian utility vehicles, sport utility vehicles, pickup trucks, and vans—climbed 15.7 percent to 28,146 units in the first half this year from 24,329 a year ago.

This category's sterling performance more than made up for the dismal showing of passenger car sales which dropped to 10,894 units in the first half this year from 11,050 units in the first semester of 2001.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. spokesperson Ariel de Jesus attributed the mid-year spurt in vehicle sales to the aggressive marketing efforts of industry players to goad new vehicle buyers to make their purchases.

Assemblers have inundated consumers with a wide array of financing packages that were made affordable by the prevailing low interest rates. Also, assemblers have stepped up their new product launches to create a buzz among buyers.

De Jesus said TMPC would still wait and see if sales would hold up in the next few months before revising its target of a 4.3-percent growth this year to 80,000 units from 76,670 units last year.



De Jesus said TMPC has been enjoying brisk sales for both passenger cars and commercial vehicles despite stiffer competition particularly from the new Honda CR-V whose scaled down specifications and price have led to strong sales and a long waiting period for buyers.

Banks told to submit deposit reports

By C. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas, upon the request of the Department of Finance, will ask banks to submit a detailed report on their deposit accounts, the interests paid on these deposits and the taxes withheld.

The measure is aimed at helping the DoF determine whether the banks are remitting correct taxes to the government.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the Monetary Board would issue shortly a circular on this and that it would ask the Bankers Association of the Philippines to come up with the guidelines that would govern the reporting of the interest income from deposits.

"In their report, they have to separate the deposits that are subject to withholding tax and those that are exempted such as government deposits. The best way to do it is to break it down," said Buenaventura. Banks deduct from deposits a 20-percent withholding tax.

The measure was proposed by the Department of Finance,

BANKS/ B2

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- Departmental Income Statement
- Departmental Cost of Production
- Trial Balance
- Subsidiary Schedules
- General & Subsidiary Ledger
- Transaction Registers
- Expense & Cost Distribution
- W/Tax/VAT Monthly/Quarterly Report
- W/Tax Certificate

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE SYSTEM
- Receivable Ledger
- Statement of Accounts
- Age Analysis - Summary / Detailed
- Account Movement Analysis - Summary / Detailed
- Post-Dated Checks on Hand
- Transaction Register
- Sales / Service Invoice
- Collection Performance - Summary / Detailed
- Receivable Schedule
- Tax Register Summary / Detailed

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE SYSTEM
- Payable Ledger
- Statement of Payables
- Age Analysis - Summary / Detailed
- Account Movement Analysis - Summary / Detailed
- Transaction Register
- Purchase Order
- Payment Performance Summary / Detailed
- Payable Schedule
- Tax Register - Summary / Detailed

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Benpres submits debt plan

By Elena R. Torrijos

BENPRES Holdings Corp., the cash-strapped flagship holding company of the Lopez family, has proposed a restructuring plan to creditors that would involve the payment of interest on $189 million in obligations over the next 10 years.

An informed source told the INQUIRER that Benpres made the proposal in a presentation to creditor banks and bondholders two weeks ago.

Under the proposal, Benpres would pay interest on its obligations twice a year starting November this year and every six months thereafter for 10 years.

"They were not clear how principal payments would be structured but it would hinge on asset sales," an official of a creditor bank said.

BHC failed last month to meet its interest payments on $150 million worth of euro notes maturing this December and P2 billion worth of long-term commercial paper falling due in October next year.

"In lieu of such interest payments and any other payments under the long-term commercial papers and euro notes, Benpres has recently made proposals in relation to interest payments and principal payments," Benpres corporate secretary Enrique Quiason said in a disclosure to the Securities and Exchange Commission after the company's failure to pay interest on its debts.

BHC, which has wide interests ranging from power generation to media to property and water distribution, earlier said the group was rescheduling $600 million in debts, including $189 million in direct debt and debt of its subsidiaries it guaranteed amounting to $407.8 million.

To raise money to pay off its debts, the company also said it would sell non-core assets. These include an 8-percent stake in ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. to bring down its equity interest to 51 percent, stakes in BeyondCable, Manila North Tollways Corp. and Rockwell Land Corp.

Creditors, however, have expressed pessimism on Benpres' chances to sell anything this year.

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Riviera Golf "A"/"C"*	190,000/450,000*	-
Riviera Golf "B"	250,000	-
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	90,000/Pls. Call*	-
Sherwoods "A"/"B"*	105,000/Pls. Call*	-
Sta Elena Golf "A"	1,640,000	Pls. Call
Subic Bay Yacht Club "Corp"	330,000	-
Subic Golf	180,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	430,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	900,000	840,000
Tagaytay Midlands	Pls. Call	770,000
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Valle Verde (Indv.)	-	150,000
Wack Wack Golf	7,400,000	-

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3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000	700,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000	80,000
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	280,000	250,000
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	600,000	550,000
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	120,000	
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	190,000	175,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	450,000	400,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	210,000	190,000
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	200,000	-
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	350,000	330,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"		250,000
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	280,000	260,000
19. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,500,000
20. MANILA POLO CLUB		2,800,000
21. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	650,000	620,000
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	750,000	700,000
23. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	100,000	80,000
24. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
25. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	350,000	
26. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
27. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	250,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	370,000	300,000
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	220,000	210,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	200,000	
31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	250,000	210,000
32. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,800,000	
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34. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB		800,000
35. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND		750,000
36. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	170,000	150,000
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COUNTRY SHARES
As of July 09, 2002

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A	-	1,700,000
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	700,000	740,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	95,000/105,000 *
CAMP JOHN HAY	280,000	300,000
CANLUBANG	500,000	-
CAPITOL HILLS	-	115,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	180,000	190,000
CLUB FILIPINO	-	200,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B"/C"*	-	350,000/450,000"/600,000 "
EVERCREST A/B*	135,000 *	100,000
FONTANA D/C"/B"*	-	85,000/150,000"/250,000 "
FOREST HILLS A/C*	210,000/250,000 "	230,000/260,000 "
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	250,000/260,000 *	270,000/280,000 *
MANILA POLO CLUB	-	2,900,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A		650,000
METROPOLITAN A/B*	-	120,000/125,000 *
MIMOSA IND./C3"*	120,000/275,000 "	155,000/300,000 "
MT MALARAYAT A/C*	-	350,000/625,000 *
ORCHARD A/B"/C"*	200,000/220,000	230,000/350,000"/425,000 "
PUERTO AZUL	100,000	115,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	200,000	220,000
RIVIERA A/B*	-	195,000/450,000 *
ROCKWELL CLUB	380,000	450,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B"/C"*	-	90,000/150,000"/180,000 "
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B"/C"*		110,000/250,000"/350,000 "
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	1,700,000
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP *	290,000 *	300,000/300,000 *
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CC/GOLF*	425,000/600,000 *	850,000 *
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	780,000	800,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	150,000	170,000
VALLEY GOLF	240,000	-

Available Lessors for Playing Rights: Alabang, Calatagan, Camp John Hay (Free), Canlubang, Canyon Woods, The Country Club (Free) Celebrity, Eaglerdge, Eastridge, Forest Hills, Makati Sports, Malarayat, Orchard, Riviera, Sta. Elena, Southwoods (Free), Tagaytay H-lands & Midlands, Valley Golf, Wack Wack, Rockwell & Others
RUSH SALE! GOOD PRICE! WOODLANDS LOG CABIN 3 BDRMS
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JETRO AAF JAMA JAPIA
present
The 4th Conference on
ASEAN AUTO SUPPORTING INDUSTRIES
Business Opportunities on High Gear
July 9 (Tue), 2002, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. July 10 (Wed), 2002, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
World Trade Center Metro Manila (WTCMM)
Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC)
Roxas Blvd. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Pasay City, Philippines

Exhibitions (WTCMM=8, 100m²)
Automobiles and Parts/ Components Manufacturers Booths (Reverse Exhibition)
Japanese and Asian automobiles and parts/ components manufacturers will display parts and materials they would like to procure and introduce fields in which they are interested in forming joint ventures and technical tie-ups.

ASEAN Suppliers Booths
Suppliers from ASEAN countries will display parts and materials they wish to supply to the ASEAN region and Japan, introduce fields in which they are interested in forming joint ventures and technical tie-ups.

Seminar (PTTC) July 9, 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
A seminar with the theme "Strengthening the Competitiveness of Auto Suppliers in the ASEAN Region"

10:30 Opening Remarks - Mr. Vicente Mills, President, PAFI
10:35 Opening Remarks - Ms. Aisha Ahmad, President, AAF
10:50 Greetings - Honorable Undersecretary Gregory L. Domingo, DTI
11:05 Japanese auto manufacturers' expectations from ASEAN suppliers Mr. Toru Onda, Vice Chairman, Purchasing Committee, JAMA
11:20 Japanese auto parts manufacturers' expectations from ASEAN suppliers Mr. Toyohiko Shimada, Vice Chairman & Executive Managing Director JAPIA
11:35 Introduction and report on dispatching experts to ASEAN auto suppliers by JODC scheme Mr. Takao Suzuki, Vice Chairman, JAMA
11:50 Case Studies of Successful ASEAN suppliers by JODC Expert Dispatch Program
• Philippines - Roberts Automotive and Industrial Parts Mfg. Corp.
• Thailand - Ampas Industries Company, Ltd.
• Indonesia - PT. Tjokro Bersaudara Cikarangindo
• Malaysia - Tong Yong Industries Sdn Bhd.
13:10 Question and Answer

Co-organized by:
• Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)
• ASEAN Automotive Federation (AAF)
• Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, Inc. (JAMA)
• Japan Auto Parts Industries Association (JAPIA)

Supported by:
• Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Philippines
• Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Japan
• Philippine Automotive Federation, Inc. (PAFI)
• PAFI Point Organization: Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (MVPMAP)
• Japan Overseas Development Corporation (JODC)

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, July 08, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	6,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18	18	18	17,700
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	90	100	90	100	300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44.5	45	44	45	169,700
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	18	18	18	18	2,000
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29	28.5	28.5	185,300
First E-Bank Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.32	1.36	16,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	34	33	33.5	475,600
Philippine National Bank	31	31	31	31	3,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	20	20	19.75	19.75	13,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1345	1345	1340	1345	2,510
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1025	1040	1025	1040	13,410
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.62	0.62	2,430,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	520	525	510	510	14,940
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.029	2,800,000
Piltel	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	60,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	307.5	320	307.5	315	279,110
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	31,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	20.75	20.75	20	20	2,900
Manila Electric Co. B	28.5	28.5	27.5	27.5	170,200
Petron Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.7	1.7	2,557,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.76	1.8	14,621,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	350,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	556,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.3	2.34	2.3	2.34	123,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	8,700
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32	32	32	24,000
RFM Corp.	1	1	1	1	20,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48	47.5	48	413,700
San Miguel Corp. B	54	54	53.5	53.5	66,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	693,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.26	2.28	2.26	2.28	3,132,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	10,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	5,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	6,400,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	1,020,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	1,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	1,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	19.25	19.25	18	18	245,000
Ionics Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	12,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	32,000
Jolliville Holdings Corp.	0.87	1.1	0.87	1.1	20,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.69	1,720,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.47	0.49	0.4	0.4	40,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	430,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	250,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	200,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.32	270,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	23.75	23.75	23.75	23.75	125,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	610	610	610	610	30
Jollibee Warrants	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	92,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.5	7.5	6	6.2	219,000
Far Eastern University	450	450	450	450	180
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	816,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	20,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	1,300,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.24	2.26	2.2	2.24	1,363,000
Highlands Prime Leisure	1.54	1.6	1.54	1.6	210,000
SM Development Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	40,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5	3,432,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
MINING					
Benguet Corp. A	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.19	80,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	530,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	124,000,000

Lepanto expects ₱9B in sales from new mine

By Christine A. Gaylican

MINING firm Lepanto Consolidated has estimated that its new copper-gold find in Mankayan, Benguet, could bring in as much as P9 billion in revenues.

Lepanto president Artemio Disini said in an interview that the Far Southeast project was extensively studied by Wright Engineers and Lynx-JS Redpathand and the results showed that the mine has some 100 million pounds of copper and 350,000 ounces of gold in recoverable reserves.

Disini said the mine project has a mine life of 15 years and would complement the existing Victoria 1 and 2 gold mining projects also in Benguet.

Due to the encouraging prospects of the Far Southeast project, Lepanto has outlined plans to explore a nearby copper prospect.

Disini added that further economic review of the Far Southeast project was also scheduled to be undertaken this year.

In addition to the prospects within the immediate vicinity of the Victoria prospects, other properties that are ready for further exploration are Mainit, Tadian-Kayan, Palasaan-Suyoc and Binucong-Loo.

All of these projects are in the very early stages of exploration.

Lepanto Consolidated is one of the country's most active mining firms. Last year it increased its gross revenues by 12 percent to P2.37 billion due to the increase in the market prices of copper and silver.

Net income, however, slipped last year to P185 million from P485 million in 2000.

Banks told to submit . . .

From page B1

which suspected that certain banks were not remitting the correct amount of taxes on their deposit accounts' interest income. This observation was based on the declining trend in the government's tax collection from bank deposits' interest income in recent years.

Buenaventura said it would be easy to determine whether the taxes paid by banks on their peso and dollar deposits were correct by unbundling the different deposit accounts.

Commissioner Rene Bañez of the Bureau of Internal Revenue said that the BIR had no way to check whether the banks were remitting the correct amount of the taxes they withheld on deposits.

Of the P388 billion in taxes collected by the BIR in 2001, taxes from deposit accounts amounted to about P12 billion, down from P16 billion the previous year.

A finance official said that in 2000, the government had estimated the earnings from deposit accounts to reach P30 billion. However, the target was revised to P22 billion and later to P19 billion.

MVP plan deemed . . .

From page B1

the source noted.

"At the end of the day, they are not the ones who will prevail because they do not own the shares in the first place," the he added.

If there would be some delay in the execution of the deal, the source said it would only be "one to two weeks" at the most.

While the Pangilinan group has dropped plans to outbid the Gokongweis to block the hostile takeover, it is confident that there are other measures that can be implemented to stall the deal. The game plan is to buy time to force the First Pacific-Gokongwei tandem to back out and for the Pangilinan group to take over on its own terms.

The Pangilinan camp is building a war chest of $500 million to $600 million to take over both BLC and PLDT. It has been preparing for a proxy war and a legal battle to stall the First Pacific-Gokongwei deal.

REALESTATE

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

What it takes to be a realty investor

By Tessa R. Salazar

ITCHING to get your money out of the bank and into real property investment? You wouldn't want to be an employee for life, that's for sure. So you're looking for ways to make your hard-earned money grow.

You could be a middle-aged professional preparing for your future retirement, an employee who recently got a big retrenchment benefit, or a member of a group pooling your resources for a joint real property investment. Yes, you may have the dough, but can you stand the heat in the kitchen? Do you possess the qualifications needed to become a winning real estate investor?

If you have the energy and the desire you can be a good real estate investor. If you have the money but lack the know-how you can still invest with the help of a consultant.

So, what must a prospective real estate investor possess in order to come out a winner? Civil engineer and real property consultant Enrico S. Cruz, president of the Urban Institute of Real Estate (United Realty Brokers and Appraisers Network) which handles real estate education, says there are factors to consider before finally plunging in real estate investment.

Real estate investment could range from as small as purchasing a house and lot to lending money with real estate collaterals.

An investor does not simply purchase a vacant land, Cruz stresses. He or she is required to at least know the legal aspect of buying and selling. Prospective investors should also know the future potential of the property, the reasonable price and know if one investment is safe insofar as government controls are concerned.

The energy and time of the prospective investor is also considered. Before embarking on a real estate investment, ask yourself the following: Do you still have the energy, time and enthusiasm to be actively involved in each phase of the investment? The degree of your involvement and knowledge could be the limiting factors in your investment areas.

Cruz stresses that energy, time, enthusiasm and knowledge are "must" factors for a successful real estate investment.

"For example, how could you invest in rental properties if you are averse to dealing with tenants? Even (if you hire) a property manager, you as the owner would still, from time to time, have to directly deal with tenants. Besides, you don't hire a property manager for a mere four-door apartment," he says.

Risk taker

A prospective real property investor should also ask himself this: Am I prepared to take the risk?

There are always some risks involved in real estate investment, says Cruz. These risks can be minimized and managed with the application of some techniques, but the fact remains that risks would always be present.

"Real estate investments," he says, "are for risk-takers only."

Compounding that risk is the reality that in real estate, you can't just "abandon ship" anytime you choose and recoup your losses.

'Fear' factor

Cruz cites other factors prospective investors should be aware of before plunging in a real estate business.

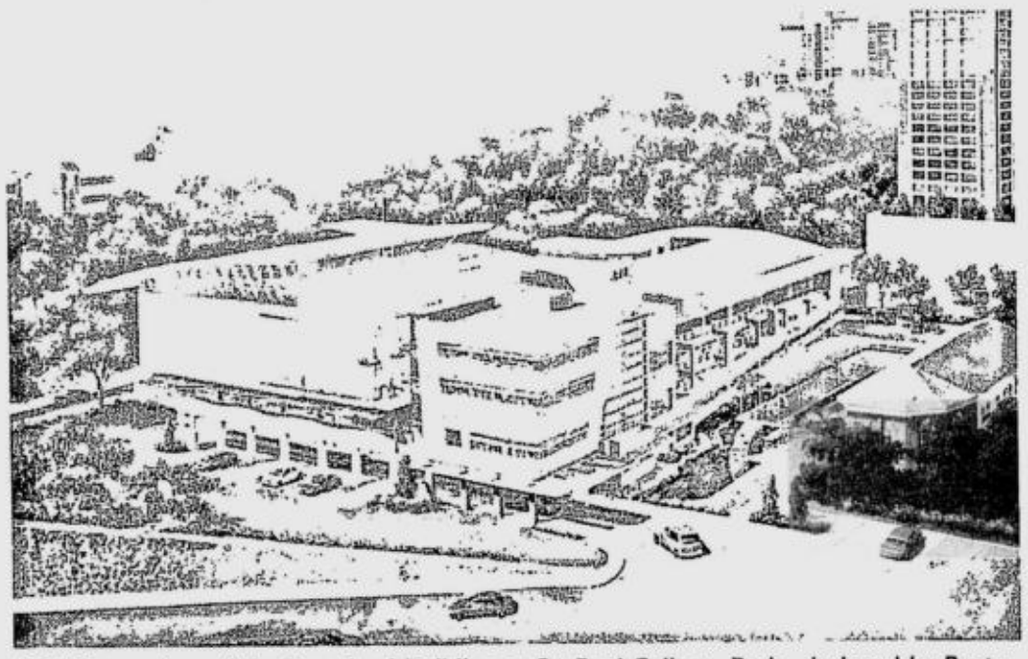
- **Liquidity.** Cash put into real estate investment cannot easily be converted back to cash without incurring some expenses.
- **The tendency to speculate.** Never be enticed to invest in real estate if the only reason would be the tip or information that prices would increase abnormally.
- **The tendency to borrow too much.** In real estate, it is easy to get loans because of its collateral value. However, this is also the frequent reason for failure.
- **The tendency to be in a hurry to invest.** Never think that you will run out of investment opportunity.
- **The tendency to fall in love with your property.** Sell as soon as it is time to sell. Do not hold on to your property without valid business reasons.
- **The tendency to over-improve.** This is also a frequent reason for failure for many starting a build-and-sell business.

Do your homework

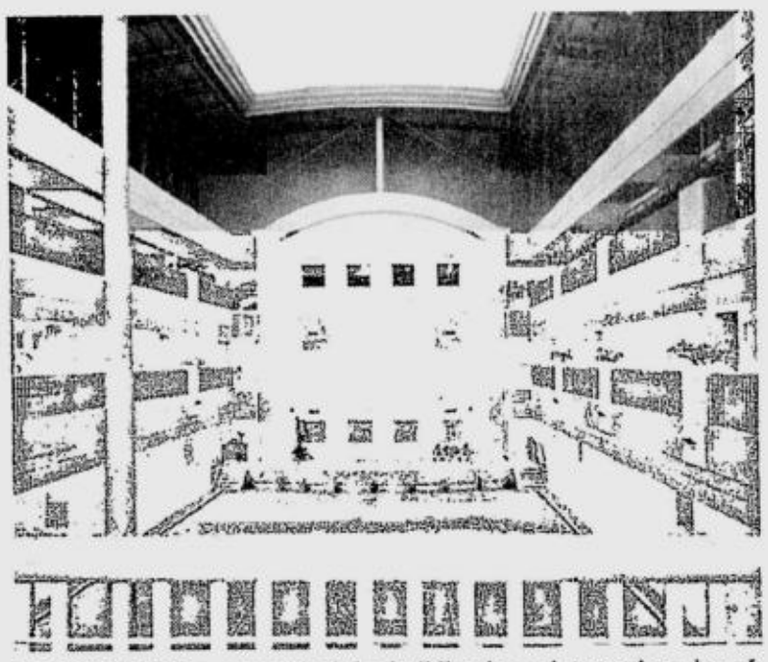
Cruz explains that after you determine you have what it takes to become a real estate investor, basic knowledge should be studied as early as possible. These are real estate economics; the legal aspects of property ownership, sale, mortgage, lease, contracts and other related legal instruments; and financing and analyzing your prospective investment.

Cruz also says investors must know how to determine the market value of a given property; they must also be familiar with, or advised on government rules, regulations and controls on property ownership and property development, on real estate taxation and how it affects their investment. They must know the techniques on how to profitably buy and sell their property, he adds.

WHAT/B5



BIRD'S eye view of the Preschool Building at St. Paul College, Pasig, designed by Recto



THE INTERIOR courtyard of the building in an interesting play of colors and forms

ST. PAUL SCHOOL PROJECT

Recto wins top design award

ARCHITECT Philip H. Recto was given the prestigious 2002 Design Award of Excellence in Architecture by the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP) for his notable design of the Preschool Building at St. Paul College, Pasig, during the 28th UAP national convention honor dinner held recently.

Recto was cited for "producing a totally outstanding structure out of what was assumed to be a simple project." The last time this UAP top design award was given out was in 1998, six years ago.

The award-winning school building with a total floor area of 17,500 sq. m is located inside the six-hectare campus of St. Paul College, Pasig, where there was a 30-year-old one-story preschool building that was demolished to give way to the new building. The architect took great care in preserving the existing facilities such as the Founder's Garden, gazebos, playgrounds and the surrounding full-grown trees in his design.

The layout of the building observes a north-south orientation to avoid the hot afternoon sun. The structure is three stories high with a full basement for car parking. The design adopted is a finger-type configuration with single-loaded open corridors for optimum natural lighting, ventilation and privacy. It also has an interior courtyard for playground and flag-raising ceremonies. All classrooms are air-conditioned.

SKYLIGHT and vibrant colors provide visual interest as well as natural lighting to the interior of the building.

The building is divided into two parts—the rear portion for preschool classrooms and the front portion for common facilities such as the 700-seat chapel and the 1,000-seat social hall, which other school departments can also use.

The basement parking is another shared facility, which solved considerably the perennial traffic problem within the campus. It is spacious with a capacity for 64 car slots and has a rear exit for an unimpeded flow of traffic especially during drop-off and pickup hours. Exterior ramp, which are provided for students with book carts, also serves as emergency exit.

Recto's design was also cited by the jurors for having a "clear zoning of functional categories, achieving maximum flexibility as well as economy with minimal disruption to other built facilities and the existing full-grown trees. Provision of an interior courtyard not only enhanced functionality but was also an effective application of defensible space, providing natural control of the children's activities."

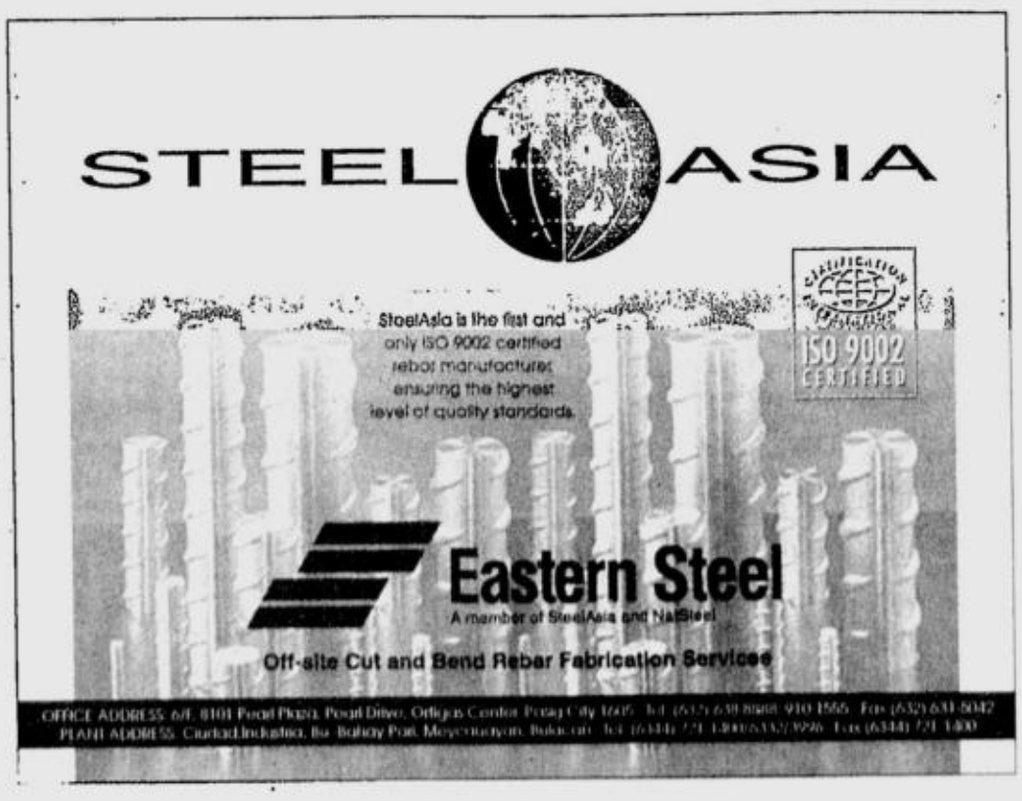
Moldex business opportunity session

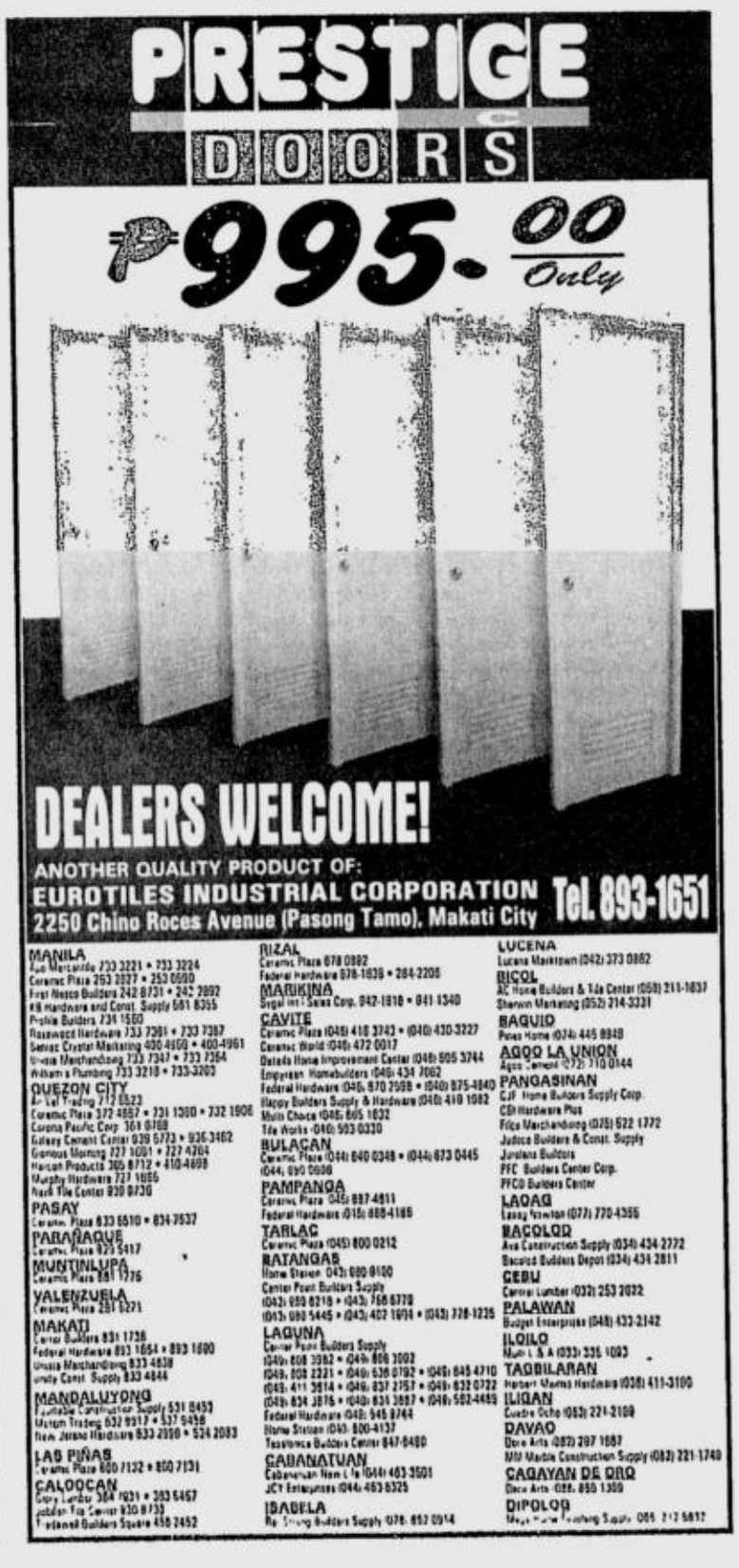
MOLDEX Realty Marketing Inc. is inviting people with a knack for selling to attend its business opportunity session tomorrow at 1:30-4:30 p.m. at the Aberdeen Court Board Room, 7842 Makati Ave., Makati City.

The meeting is aimed at briefing real estate agents, brokers and other sales practitioners on the advantages and rewards of realty selling. "At MRMI, we offer sales positions with highly competitive compensation and benefits packages available in the industry, said president Editha L. Manansala.

MRMI is the exclusive marketing arm of Moldex Realty Inc. and Moldex Land Inc. It is selling about 19 medium to high-end residential lot and house-and-lot projects, including a residential condominium called 1322 Roxas Boulevard.

Among MRMI's projects are Metrogate Silang Estates, Metrogate Tagaytay Estates, Tagaytay Southridge Estates, Metrogate Dasmariñas Estates, Tagaytay Southridge Villas, Metrogate Sta. Rosa, Heritage Homes Trece Martires, Metrogate Trece Martires, Metrogate Indang, Metrogate Angeles, Metrogate Dasmariñas and Metrogate Villas.





Country club offers the good life

By Charles E. Buban

THE CLOSER, the better—perhaps this is what makes Buena Vista Nature Park and Country Club so much better to live in. A 26-hectare property nestled in the gentle hills of the Tagaytay-Talisay countryside, the place offers a closer and breathtaking view of the Taal Volcano and its surrounding lake.

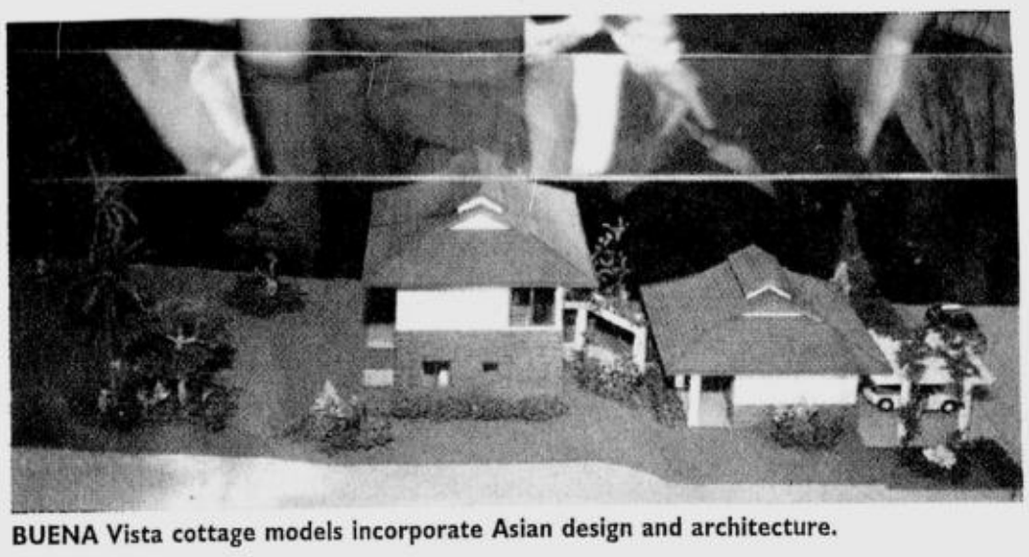
From this vantage point, a new community will soon rise offering modern facilities and recreational refuge for the comfort and enjoyment of the whole family. The Buena Vista property will combine several components: residential, business, recreational and nature elements to form a seamless concept that truly appeals to the different pursuits of family members.

Buena Vista will offer facilities like the Clubhouse, where formal events and major functions can be held; the Sports Pavilion, where almost all kinds of sports can be enjoyed; and the Business Conference Center, where conference rooms with complete modern amenities and state-of-the-art telecommunications systems will be available.

There will also be a playground, skating rink, a kiddie pool and even a mini golf course for younger people to enjoy.

One of the highlights of Buena Vista is the challenging lighted Executive Pitch and Putt Course with a driving range. The course will appeal even to seasoned golfers, who will find the course challenging enough. It is also ideal for night golf which is perfect for those who want to catch a late game or those who prefer not to get tanned.

The course is developed by Golforce—designer and developer of premier golf courses such as Manila Southwoods in Cavite, Alabang Country Club in Muntinlupa City, Camp John Hay Golf and Country Club in Baguio and the Fairways and Bluewater in Antipolo, Rizal.



BUENA Vista cottage models incorporate Asian design and architecture.

World-class cottages

Those who want to enjoy staying at the property longer will find Buena Vista an ideal place to live in. World-class cottages, which boast of tropical designs and architecture, are available for single travelers or for big groups.

There are also nature-based facilities that are perfect for outdoor activities such as camping, picnic, rock climbing, horseback riding, biking, hiking or jogging, and an array of natural life amenities such as aviary, petting zoo, flower and butterfly gardens and a zoological park.

Much later, the property will also include condominium units that offer a spectacular view of the whole property and the lake.

Buena Vista is very accessible as it is only an hour away from Manila. The shortest route is through the newly opened Star Expressway from Santo Tomas, Batangas. Taking the Sambat/Tanauan exit leads to Tanauan-Talisay National Road and between kilometer marker 77 and 78, Buena Vista has its own private road leading to the property's reception pavilion.

Another alternative is through the Santa Rosa exit of the South Expressway that leads also to the Tanauan-Talisay National Road via Ligaya Drive.

Affordable investment

The Buena Vista property will be offered at a rate most enticing to families and other investors. The monthly investment for a share is as affordable as P2,000 a month. Consumer-flexible investment options allow them to even pay by credit card. This investment scheme is in line with the developer's sister company philosophy "making tomorrow's best buys available today."

Buena Vista Nature Park and Country Club Inc. is a sister company of Ledesco Development Corp., a 30-year-old development company that has been actively engaged in developing residential and resort-oriented properties around the country.

Ledesco's many projects include Ledesco Villages in Iloilo, Guadalupe Village in Davao City, Makiling Heights in Los Baños, Laguna, and the former Sicogon Resorts International in Iloilo.

PHOTOS BY ROGER MARGALLO

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon joins Buena Vista Nature Park and Country Club officials during the formal launch at Fort Bonifacio.

CONSTRUCTION IN FULL BLAST

Township developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc. recently announced that the first cluster of its eight-cluster California Garden Square residential-commercial development in Mandaluyong City is now structurally complete. Called Anaheim, the topped-off cluster is now undergoing finishing and masonry works for all of its four towers including the installation of windows and doors. Empire East has also started foundation works for the Burbank, Carlton and Dayton clusters.

It pays to go Sentricon

MANY home and property owners rely on "spray-and-pray techniques" thinking they are saving good money doing so. Traditional termiticides work by creating a "fence" around the property to protect it from termites; but once the barrier is disrupted, termite invasion resumes. So the money you thought you saved by going with a cheap anti-termite treatment now goes to pay for the major structural repairs your home or business property.

Good news

The good news is that you don't have to watch helplessly as voracious termites devour your greatest investments. Sentricon, the technology that protects revered structures, promises total termite colony elimination. "Sentricon is the most significant termite control development the industry has seen in 50 years," notes Sentricon marketing manager Ela Dillague. "It uses a three-step process to detect and eliminate entire termite colonies..."

Sentricon System is nonintrusive and does not disrupt daily operations. Authorized Sentricon technicians can install the system without drilling in floors or foundations so it results in fewer disturbances to landscaping. In fact; the system can be installed without entering the building, which makes Sentricon ideal for multihousing and hotels. There are no limitations on structure size so warehouses and shopping centers can be adequately protected. Plus, it is so discreet; it especially suits restaurants, school buildings, hospitals and food establishments.

Environment-friendly

But the best part about Sentricon is that it is environment-friendly, which lets you go after termite colonies without harming the environment. In the United States, Sentricon System was awarded by the Clinton administration the Presidential Green Chemistry Award for its commitment to keep the environment safe. Hexaflumuron, the bait material in Sentricon, is also the first pest control product in the United States to receive "fast-track" registration from the Environmental Protection Agency in the new "Reduced Pesticide Risk" category.

When talking of bottom lines, smart homeowners and businesspersons know that "cheap" does not necessarily mean "cost-effective."

BAGO KA MAKAPAG-KONKRETO, KAILANGAN MO MUNANG SUKATIN TAPOS TANTIYAHIN KUNG GAANO KARAMING SEMENTO AT BATO AT BUHANGIN ANG GAGAMITIN MO TAPOS KAILANGAN MONG BUMILI NG SEMENTO TAPOS BUMILI NG BATO TAPOS BUMILI NG BUHANGIN TAPOS BISTAYIN ANG BUHANGIN TAPOS TANTIYAHIN ANG SEMENTO TAPOS TANTIYAHIN ANG BUHANGIN TAPOS TANTIYAHIN ANG BATO TAPOS HALUIN ANG SEMENTO AT BATO AT BUHANGIN TAPOS LAGYAN NG TUBIG ANG PINAGHALONG BUHANGIN AT SEMENTO TAPOS HALUIN TAPOS DAGDAGAN ANG BUHANGIN TAPOS HALUIN TAPOS DAGDAGAN NG TUBIG TAPOS HALUIN TAPOS DAGDAGAN NG SEMENTO TAPOS DAGDAGAN NG TUBIG TAPOS HALUIN TAPOS DAGDAGAN NG BUHANGIN TAPOS HALUIN...

25,660 urban poor families get housing loan aid

A TOTAL of 25,660 urban poor families received housing loan assistance for acquisition of residential lots from January 2001 to June 2002 to assure their land tenurial security under the government's Community Mortgage Program.

In a press statement, lawyer Angelico T. Salud, president of National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. and CMP program administrator, said this is higher by 11.5 percent than the 23,000 families targeted for assistance for the same period.

The figure consists of 16,487 family-beneficiaries in 123 projects, whose loans amounting to P543.51 million had been released; and 9,173 families whose application are on the loan release process to finance 79 housing sites with corresponding loan value of P365.764 million.

The NHMFC also reported the collection of a total of P66.46 million in loan payments from CMP loan beneficiaries during the first quarter of this year.

This resulted in the increase in collection efficiency rating of its accredited CMP loan originators to 76.38 percent, up by almost 5 percent (4.89 percent) from the collection performance during last year's last quarter, according to Salud.

Of the three groups of CMP loan originators, the participating government agencies posted the collection highest level of 82.42 percent, followed by local government units with 75 percent and by nongovernment organizations at 72.84 percent, Salud added.

MOST OUTSTANDING CEMENT BRAND

Union Portland Cement was recently awarded the Most Outstanding Cement Brand during the 2002 National Consumers Quality Awards held in Camp Aguinaldo. The awardees were chosen based on the following major criteria: contribution to public service, product or service quality, actual demonsration and general public opinion based on consumer satisfaction as well as product affordability. Shown, from left, are Bing Pimentel, Union Cement Corp. VP for marketing Ma. Isabel Sumaria and product officer Raymond Tadina, Sen. Robert Barbers (partly hidden) and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Mossini faucets available at Federal

MOSSINI faucets are now available at Federal Hardware Builder's Center. Mossini products include traditional faucets and showers, single-lever faucets and telephone showers.

Federal Hardware is every builder's destination for home improvement, expansion or construction. Aside from carrying the most complete inventory of local and imported tile products in the country, it is also a well-stocked supermarket of new and old reliable brands of power and hand tools, electrical and plumbing merchandise, lumber, car-care products, paints, do-it-yourself items, lawn and garden, kitchen and bath cabinetry and accessories and even living/dining room door, dresser and furniture assemblies.

Property settlement seminar set July 27

THE PASAY-MAKATI Realtors Board Inc. Education Center will be conducting a specialized seminar that will answer all the legal and personal questions on the important issues of "Property Settlement in Marriage, Legal Separation and Annulment."

Resource speakers will be discussing topics on the process of annulment and legal separation; the psychological effects of annulment and separation on the spouses; marriage settlement and legal custody of the children. The prenuptial agreement will also be one of the topics.

Scheduled on Saturday, July 27, the seminar will be held at 1-6 p.m. at the SGV Hall, AIM Conference Center, Benavidez corner Trasierra Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. For details, call 893-0585 or 893-0569.

What . . .

(FROM PAGE B3)

Managing investment

Cruz stresses that in some areas of real estate investment, investors-to-be will need to learn or acquire other specialized skills or hire professionals to guide them.

"If, for example, you decide to venture in rental properties, then you need to learn property management or hire a professional property manager," he says.

Urban Institute defines property management as a real estate activity involving leasing, collection of rents, maintenance, insurance decisions, budgeting and record keeping. It is based on the same general concepts and activities as any type of management. Property managers are real estate managers who maximize the benefits of ownership.

The primary goal is to maximize net operating income by maximizing rents as permitted by the market and gain higher occupancy levels by operating the property in an attractive and pleasant manner. Maximizing capital appreciation is another goal that could be achieved through proper repair and maintenance program.

An investor also needs architects, engineers, electricians and other repair specialists in the business of buying and developing properties, or restoring them before selling.

"If you are going to hire a property manager, you must be familiar in preparing a management contract and what it should cover to protect your interest. This will also include the authorities vested to the property manager and its limitations."

An investment manager should also know the ins and outs of real estate taxation and how it will affect one's investments. "At the very beginning," says Cruz, "you should know about the tax aspects involved in buying, holding and selling real estate aside from the income taxation."

Being a real estate investor is a big shift for first timers. Cruz, who co-authored books "Comprehensive Notes and Reviewer for Real Estate Brokers" and "Mastering the Real Estate Broker's Exam" with son, lawyer Rex Enrico, conducts training on real estate every Saturday. Prospective real estate investors who want to know more about Urban Institute trainings can call 681-0928.

(Next: where to invest and the different opportunities in real estate investment)

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Please be informed that GOLDRICH CONSTRUCTION with office address at No. 179 Naguilan Road, Baguio City, has expanded its business to include supply of ready mix concrete and aggregates, effective January 01, 2002, and in view thereof, the management through MR. WILLIAM T. GO, decided to change its business name to GOLDRICH CONSTRUCTION AND TRADING, under the same management and office address.
Thank you for your continued patronage.
(PDI - July 9, 2002)

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES
DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

The Swiss section of Médecins Sans Frontieres, a non-profit, non-governmental international health organization, is implementing a short-term project for malnourished children in Dulong Hernandez. We need the following people:

Function: (1) Community Organizer
(1) Asst. Nutritionist

Location: Dulong Hernandez, Malabon City

Requirements:
- P.R.C. License
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- Very good communication skills and interpersonal relations skills
- Could work with minimal supervision, a team player and with initiative

Please bring your application letters, comprehensive resumés with a recent 2x2 picture before Friday, July 12, 2002 to:

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LIBERTY INSURANCE CORPORATION hereby informs the public that one booklet of Official Receipts with Serial Nos 205851 to 205900 are lost and unaccounted. Any transactions covered by these receipts will not be honored.
PDI-July 7,8 & 9, 2000

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Province Pangasinan
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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that MILA MORAD LOPEZ has filed with this office a petition for change of first name from REMEDIOS MORAD LOPEZ to MILA MORAD LOPEZ in the birth certificate of Mila Morad Lopez who was born on April 12, 1956 at Sison, Pangasinan and whose parents are PEDRO LOPEZ and ISMINEA MORAD.
Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this office not later than 15 July 2002.
(Sgd.) LEVITA J. PASCUA
City Municipal Civil Registrar
(PDI-July 9, 2002)

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AD NO. PD 2002-19

Opening Date : July 23, 2002 - 9:00 AM
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2002-19-01 PLATES, SUS316L, various sizes/PIPES, Elbow/Flange, SUS316L various sizes/ GASKET rubber, neoprene, various sizes

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Room, Ground Floor Bldg. 2 NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available on **July 8, 2002** upon payment of P50.00 per schedule which is non-refundable & presentation of TIN/supplier's number (DCE).

Issuance of eligibility forms and bidding documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. For inquiries please call No. 921-2574. Last day of issuance of bidding documents **July 18, 2002.**

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

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(PDI - July 8 & 9 2002)

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CARHEN M. VILLAMOR

Joined her Creator on July 7, 2002 at the age of 46.

Her loving parents **Carling** and **Baby**; brothers **Francis** and **Charlie**, sisters-in-law **Nila** and **May** and nephew's request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc.

Cremation will be on Friday, July 12, 2002, at La Funeraria Paz, after the Requiem Mass at 9:00 a.m.

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28

ERNESTO TADLAS PAJARA

Died in the Grace of our Lord on July 7, 2002 at the age of 66.

His bereaved wife **Teofista Ll. Pajara**; children **Bobot** and **Pinang**, **Edwin** and **Baby**, **Jocelyn** and **Voltaire Lanche**, **Dennis** and **Manet**, **Mavic** and **Ervin Ayes**, **Malou** and **Jun Malonga**, **Tintin** and **James Nepomuceno**, **Mann**; grandchildren and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Chapel B-5, 143 G. Araneta Ave. Cor. Kaliraya St., Q.C.

Interment will be on Friday, July 12, 2002 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City, after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at Sacred Heart Parish Church, Scout Ybardaloza St., Kamuning, Quezon City.

Our Dearly Beloved

ATTY. RIZALINO SACE SELVA

of Gasan, Marinduque

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 5, 2002 at the age of 81.

His loving wife **Estela** (†); children and their spouses **ED & EDITH**, **GREG & TITA** (†), **KENNETH & ALICE**, **SHIEN & CARMEL**, **JOJO**, **RICHIE** and grandchildren **POMPET & MYE**, **JUN & PRINCESS**, **ARESEL**, **SELWYN**, **EDWARD**, **AUDREY**, **STANLEY**, **CHUCKIE & GREGGY**; sisters **Flora**, **Millet & Alita**, brother **Marciano** (†) and all the relatives and friends remember him with love, and request prayers for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Chapel C, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, July 11 at Himlayang Pilipino immediately after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

"I am the Resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die."
John 11:25-26

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Corinthians 5:4-5

"My soul finds rest to God alone; from Him comes my salvation."
Psalms 62:2

JULIA CAYETANO PASCO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on July 06, 2002 at the age of 48.

Her loving husband **Sonny**; children **Lyle** and **Pow**; mother **Remy**; mother-in-law **Gloria**; brother **Dodo** and wife **Gelly**; sister **Grace**; nephews and nieces **Aizel**, **AC**, **Jan**, **Icai**; other relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on Wednesday, July 10, 2002; at the Garden of Memories Memorial Park, Calzadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

In Loving Memory

ENGR. DOMINADOR Q. VALDECAÑAS, JR.

September 20, 1928 - July 6, 2002

His bereaved wife **Caridad**; chidren **Carol**, **Jody** and **Jolly**, **Romel** and **Lizette**, and **Donna**; and grandson **Mico** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Mt. Carmel Chapel, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish, Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 13, 2002 at the loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Mt. Carmel Chapel.

JOSE C. MAULION JR.

Peacefully joined his Creator on July 4, 2002 at the age of 64.

He is survived by his beloved children and children-in-law, **Joy - Jardi**, **Jonnel - Cecil**, **Bebot - Ronnie**, **Jiji - Al** and **Jess**, grandchildren and brothers and sisters.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, (Chapel 2-B) 264 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on July 10, 2002 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, at 3 P.M.

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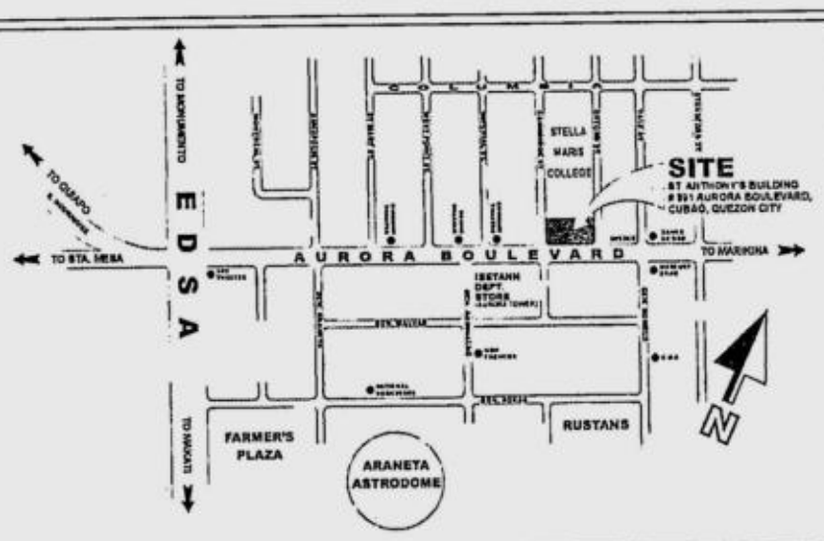

Our Dearly Beloved Mamang

MARIA NANETTE C. VILLAMIL

of Dagupan City / Alaminos City

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 5, 2002 at the age of 76.

Her loving husband **Francisco Sr.** (†); children **Delia** and **Mariano**, **Rodolfo** and **Zenaida**, **Zosimo** and **Luz**, **Francisco Jr.** (†) and **Armi**, **Angelo** and **Minnie**, **Benito** (†), **Blesila** and **Reynaldo**, **Lamberto** and **Ofelia**, **Cocoy** and **Rhodilyn**, **Domar** (†); grandchildren and great grandchildren, remember her with love and request for her repose.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel B of La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, July 11, 2002 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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BUSINESS

Nissan to introduce AUV in 12 months

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

NISSAN Motor Philippines Inc. is gearing up to launch its own Asian and sport utility vehicles over the next 12 months in an effort to catch up with its Japanese rivals.

In a statement, Nissan Philippines president and chief executive Jack Wu said Nissan Philippines would expand its line-up with the introduction of an SUV—the X-Trail—and AUV (whose model name he withheld) in the near future.

The introduction of the AUV and SUV models should strengthen Nissan Philippines' market position, Wu said.

Wu made the announcement during the recent visit of top officials of Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. of Japan led by president and chief executive Carlos Ghosn in Nissan Philippines' assembly plant in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Nissan Philippines, which ranked seventh in the industry with sales of 1,319 units in the first six months this year, has been languishing behind the taillights of its Japanese rivals, whose sales have been turbocharged by brisk turnover of SUV and AUV models.

Nissan Philippines' line-up is dominated by sedans—the Sentra and Cefiro—with the Serena QR-V launched in April its sole bet in the commercial vehicle segment.

Nissan's commercial vehicles—the Urvan, Patrol and Frontier—are distributed locally by Universal Motors Corp.

Nissan Philippines' foray into the SUV and AUV segments is a delayed reaction to the drastic change in the Filipino consumer's preference over the last few years, who now prefer to buy commercial vehicles over passenger cars.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc.'s data show that seven out of 10 vehicles sold in the country are commercial vehicles.

AUVs are the perennial best-selling models of Toyota Motor Philippines Corp., which has the Tamaraw Revo; Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp., Adventure; and, Isuzu Philippines Corp., Crosswind.

The growing popularity of AUVs has prompted Honda Cars Philippines Inc. to switch its CR-V from the SUV to the AUV category and obtain a tax exemption from the government by adding more seating capacity.

The move has so far paid handsomely for Honda Philippines, as the more affordable CR-V has been sold out in the past two months, with a waiting time of at least six months.

But its success could also be short-lived as the Bureau of Internal Revenue has threatened to revoke its tax exemption because of the CR-V's failure to meet the 10-seater standard.

Gov't contractors seek cut in 8.5% withholding tax

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE CONSTRUCTION industry is asking the Department of Finance to reduce the 8.5-percent tax that the government withholds from every deal awarded to contractors of state-funded projects.

Reducing the "creditable withholding tax" will help support the recovery of the real estate and construction sector, according to industry leaders who have started to pursue a more active representation with the government.

A person familiar with the matter said Felipe Cruz, head of FF Cruz & Co., one of the country's biggest government contractors, met with Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho to convince him to bring down the tax burden of the construction sector to a 6-percent final tax.

The construction and real estate sectors have skidded to a slump since the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis.

A government source explains that the government currently withholds an 8.5-percent tax from its contractors. This amount is creditable as part of the 10-percent value-added tax that contractors must pay the government.

Cruz reportedly told the government that the construction industry was incurring a large input VAT from its purchases of high-cost construction products and equipment rental.

This means that the input VAT sufficiently offsets the output VAT that the government withholds from every contractor.

While the government is required to pay back its contractors during times when the input VAT is larger than the output, the payment is very much delayed, Cruz was said to have complained.

Contractors argue that the amount withheld by the government can be used to help revive the industry.

Espiritu bloc to use UOB cash to settle Wincorp cases

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SON and business associates of former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu has agreed to use proceeds from the sale of their shares in United Overseas Bank Philippines to pay their debts to investors of Westmont Investment Corp., a person familiar with the matter said yesterday.

On Friday, the Espiritu group signed an agreement to settle their claims and sell their shares in UOB Philippines, to United Overseas Bank Ltd., Singapore's largest private bank.

UOB agreed to buy out its Filipino partners in UOB Philippines for a lump sum of P1.215 billion.

The binding agreement will be subject to the execution of a definitive agreement in the next several days.

A person familiar with the matter said the agreement signed on Friday stated how the P1.215 billion would be used or applied, including partial payment of debts owed by the Espiritu group to Wincorp's investors.

"The application of the funds is stated (in the agreement)," the person asserted.

The P1.215 billion will be placed in escrow, and former Westmont Bank president John Espiritu will have control over the money, the source said.

UOB Philippines was known as Westmont Bank before UOB came in.

Wincorp reportedly brokered the lending of about P7 billion in funds from over 1,000 individuals to 20 borrower firms mostly owned by Exequiel Robles of Sta. Lucia Realty Corp., the Cua family of ACL Development Corp., John Espiritu of Ebecom Inc., Golden Era of lawyer Alfonso Reyno Jr. and Manuel Tan of Pearlbank Securities Inc.

Wincorp is a wholly owned unit of Unioil Resources and Holdings Corp., which itself is owned by ACL Development, Sta. Lucia Realty, Pearlbank Securities, Ebecom and Reyno.

Tan has denied that Pearlbank has outstanding loans from Wincorp or individual creditors.

GMA urged to intervene in Unitrust ownership row

By Elena R. Torrijos

SOME depositors of shuttered lender Unitrust Development Bank have asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to step in and order her agencies to look into the offer of a small Taipei bank to rehabilitate Unitrust.

PDIC president Norberto Nazareno said, however, that PDIC, as Unitrust's receiver, had already awarded to a commercial bank the right to rehabilitate Unitrust subject to the resolution of Unitrust's ownership issues.

In an open letter, 80 Unitrust depositors urged the President to prevent PDIC from liquidating Unitrust "without valid reasons."

The depositors said they were apprised last March of an offer from First Federal Banking Corp. of Taiwan to buy Unitrust lock stock and barrel.

The foreign bank's rehabilitation plan, with a confirmed placement of P285 million in an escrow account, has already been submitted to PDIC together with a detailed profile of the people behind First Federal as well as a financial plan, they said.

Nazareno said he had written to FFBC explaining that its proposal to rehabilitate Unitrust was rejected because it did not meet the deadline and that PDIC had already accepted the proposal of another commercial bank.

Person familiar with the matter said the Philippine Bank of Communications won the bid to take over Unitrust. PDIC and PBCom have already entered into a memorandum of agreement over it, the source said.

PBCom, however, is having difficulty securing approval of its proposed rehabilitation plan from majority stockholders of Unitrust.

Unitrust cannot be rehabilitated without the approval of stockholders holding at least a 67-percent stake of the bank.

INSURANCE COMMISSION
United Nations Avenue, Manila

Let me take this opportunity to greet the officer and staff of Eastern Assurance and Surety Corporation on its momentous celebration today.

The insurance industry is one of the important sectors of the economy in recent years because of the revenues it has generated for the country's coffers. EASCO, in its 40 years of existence has been part of this vibrant financial sector. It is my hope and prayer that EASCO will continue to be a significant catalyst of development and provider of protection to the Filipino family. Again, my warmest congratulations!

EDUARDO T. MALINIS
Commissioner

EASTERN ASSURANCE AND SURETY CORPORATION

Life begins at 40, so they say. In the Jewish and Christian tradition, 40 is a perfect number representing a complete cycle of life.

Today, EASCO has reached that complete cycle. Despite the economic crisis that plagued Philippine business and the many trials that have come our way, we have done better than merely survived, we excelled in our chosen field. For four decades, we have provided the Filipino public with world-class non-life insurance products and services. This has been our unwavering commitment. As we enter a new epoch in our corporate life, this will remain our commitment and battlecry.

We celebrate this auspicious event, and as always remember the patriotism displayed and sacrifices made by our founding fathers. May this be our inspiration and guiding light always as we enter the new millennium. A very happy anniversary to all in the EASCO family!

FRISCO F. SAN JUAN
Chairman, Board of Directors

On the occasion of the 40th founding anniversary of EASCO, I would like to congratulate the employees of the company—particularly those who have spent the prime of their lives in the service of the firm.

Despite the level of success we have attained, EASCO will not be complacent or self-satisfied and rest on our laurels. Instead, we will continue conquering new heights and outdoing our previous accomplishments by giving our best always. This feat belongs to all of us—most specially to our valued clients and stakeholders.

There are new challenges we will encounter, new market demands we have to respond to and new roles we have to play in the corporate environment. With God's divine guidance and providence, EASCO's track public service record and our employee's hard work, I am very confident we can rise to these challenges.

JORGE T. MARIANO, JR.
President

A wise man once said that a celebration is an occasion for looking back and looking forward. This adage particularly holds true for the founding anniversary of a corporation whose four decades of existence have touched the lives of the Filipino people.

Today, we reminisce the golden years that have passed, our feats and the important milestones we have made. At the same time, as a company where excellence is a norm, we look forward to the future—eagerly anticipating the emerging challenges that will come our way.

To the staff, your hard work and unselfish dedication all through these years have made this event truly worth celebrating. To our valued clients, your continued patronage makes this celebration truly worth remembering.

NORBERTO V. SAUCO
Executive Vice President

EASTERN ASSURANCE & SURETY CORPORATION

Moving Forward at Forty

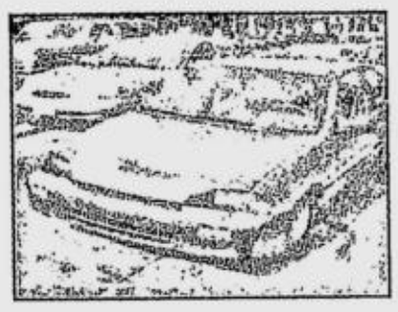
40 Years of service

Humble Beginnings

Forty years ago today, EASCO was founded by a group dedicated Filipinos who had a vision of providing comprehensive non-life coverage to the general public.

Its first set of officers were composed of Prof. Lope V. Leonio, president; Atty. Jorge T. Mariano Jr., corporate secretary and Lourdes Medalla, treasurer. The Board of Directors was chaired by Frisco F. San Juan, a civil engineer and bemedalled World War II veteran, who was the moving spirit behind the company.

San Juan was later elected a two-term congressman and a one-term assemblyman of Rizal, and would serve the government in various capacities.



It is worth noting that the prime movers of the company were war veterans and guerilla leaders during the Japanese occupation. For the founding fathers, this venture is but a new chapter of their service to the motherland.

Business Growth

In its first year of operations, EASCO was able to write 10,000 insurance policies—a big start for a small company. From an initial capitalization of P 500,000, the firm now has a P 50 million paid-up capital and has posted a robust income in recent years.

In 1970, Atty. Jorge T. Mariano Jr. assumed the presidency and implemented trailblazing strategies which laid the firm foundation of the company.

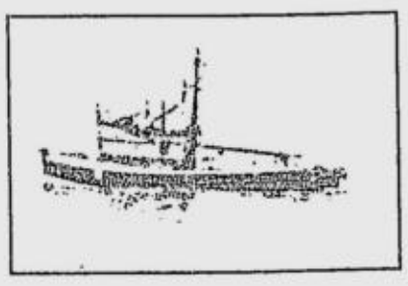
Having foremost in mind the welfare of the Filipino workers, the firm pioneered the provision of personal accident insurance with an extended war risk coverage to workers assigned in Vietnam and Laos in the 1960s. The same coverage is offered to Filipino workers today in war-torn Middle East countries—a special line that competitors do not offer. This is EASCO's legacy to the industry.

Today, the company writes major non-life lines such as motor car, fire and allied perils, casualty, bonds, marine and livestock insurance.

Recently, the company launched its family personal accident insurance which is designed to provide comprehensive cover to the Filipino family. Through the years, it has expanded and has to date six regional branches, eight extension offices, 19 writing agencies and over a hundred agents in key cities nationwide.

Nurturing human resources

The company recognizes that its human resource is one of its most valuable assets. Conizant of this, EASCO abreast with the latest developments in the insurance world by offering periodic seminars and trainings, while its executives are sent to international conferences. The company has also designed a provident and a retirement plan to reward loyal employees who have rendered the prime of their lives in the service of the company. EASCO has also democratized ownership of the corporation by offering its stocks to employees.



Looking Forward

Over the years, EASCO has kept pace with the developments in the insurance industry. As it enters a new chapter in its glorious history, EASCO will continue to uphold the lofty ideals espoused by its founders, while at the same time being relevant to the emerging concerns and changing needs of the insuring public.

EASCO
EASTERN ASSURANCE & SURETY CORPORATION

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LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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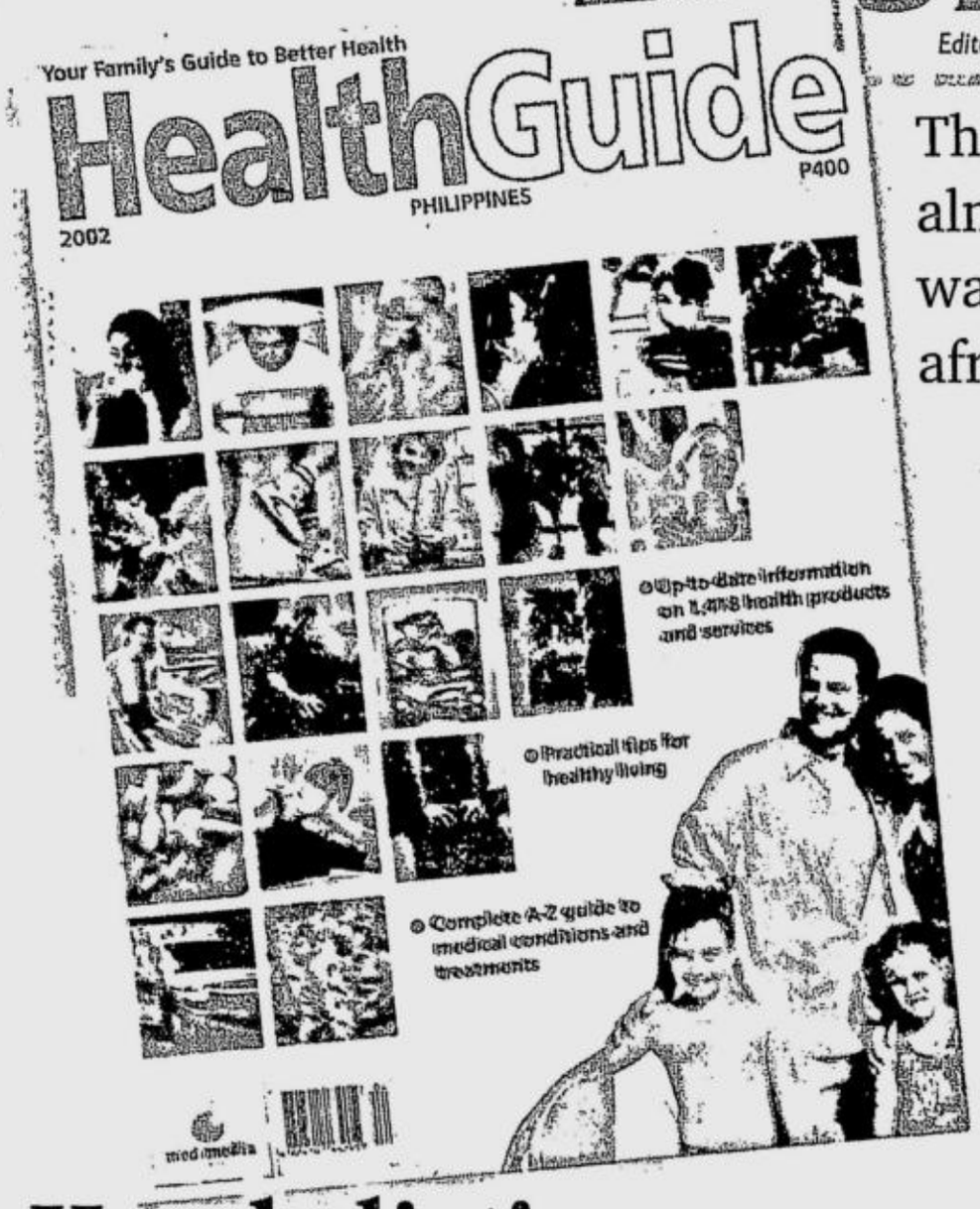

Handy listings of things medical, herbal and even causal

STORY ON PAGE C4

This catalog has the answer to almost everything you've always wanted to ask your M.D. but were afraid he'd charge you for

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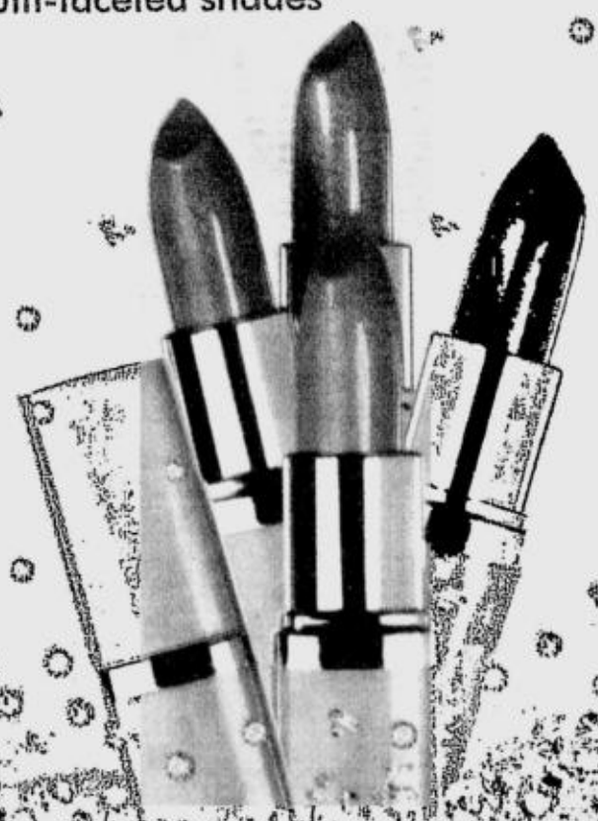

Josie Maran

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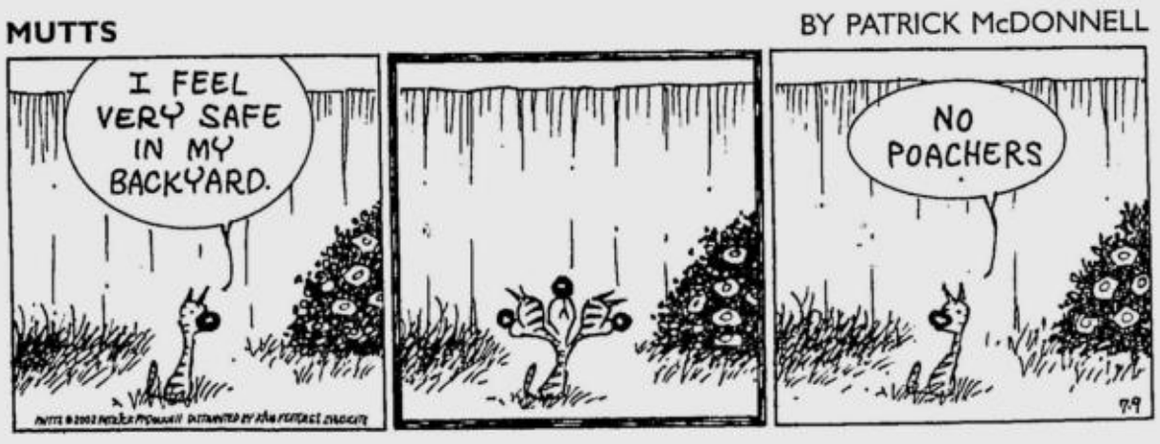

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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tom Hanks, Fred Savage, Jimmy Smits, Barbara Cartland, Courtney Love

Happy Birthday: Your desire for leadership will put you into the limelight. You should take an active role in organizations that you believe in. You will be able to deal with others easily and accomplish a lot. Your intellectual approach will be well received by those you encounter. Your numbers are 18, 24, 31, 35, 42, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): It may be tough to avoid the havoc in your personal life today. Proceed with caution and don't show signs that you might be weak at an emotional level.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Get together with friends. Your ability to help others will put you into the limelight. You are so efficient when it comes to handling others that you will have no trouble getting what you want today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You need to keep on top of matters that will affect your financial position—don't let them slide. You may be busy but these issues will come back to haunt you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Exercise will be the answer. Put extra work into your appearance today and you won't be sorry. The compliments you get will make it all worthwhile.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Secret activities will be tempting. Think twice before you get involved in something that, while intriguing, may lead to something questionable. Get promises in writing or disregard them.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You have everything to fight for and nothing to lose. Speak your mind and stick up for the underdog today. Someone you know will stretch the truth in order to save face.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't react emotionally if you are involved in a professional debate. Bide your time and gather information until you know that you can offer a good defense. Problems with your house must be taken care of immediately.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't hesitate to present your ideas and put them into action. Nothing will stand in your way if you are forceful, accommodating and true to yourself. Take action.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may be under pressure today if someone is trying to collect something you aren't prepared to give up. Face issues head-on and you can probably work out an arrangement.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll find that most of the people you deal with will be emotional and sensitive to criticism today. Be complimentary if you want to get your way. Set time aside for pleasure.

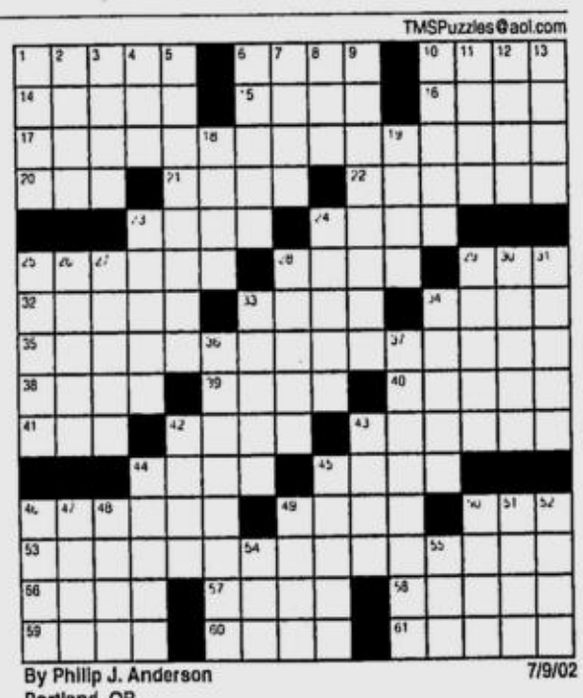
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll get a lot accomplished today. Your ability to work alongside others will be the key to finishing what you start. The support you get will be more than you ever imagined.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get involved in projects that you find interesting and enjoyable. Your imagination will help you create new concepts. This is your time to prove to yourself how capable you really are.

Birthday Baby: You will always be in search of security and power. You will not be afraid to ask for favors, and you will rarely be denied anything you ask for. You believe that what you give out you will get back—and you do.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



ACROSS
1 Breaks suddenly
6 Preserving substance
10 1952 Olympics site
14 Sister's clothes?
15 Danube tributary
16 Son of Adam
17 Short suit
20 Vietnamese holiday
21 Midday
22 Of nerves
23 Husband of Frigg
24 Cicatrix
25 Fix
28 Littleneck, e.g.
29 Law enforcement support grp.
32 Collect
33 Narrow opening
34 Husk of grain
35 Short interval
38 Seasons in Burgundy
39 Country way
40 Oboists' needs
41 Checkers side
42 Midterm or final
43 "Contempt" star Brigitte
44 Foot structure
45 Canines
46 Small storage room
49 One of a "Turandot" trio
50 __-relief
53 Short distance
56 Art Deco designer
57 Depraved
58 Flaxlike fiber
59 Take a breather
60 Snigger's prey
61 Used a keyboard

DOWN
1 Worn out
2 Scruff
3 Fence the loot, e.g.
4 Wrestling success
5 "The Courtship of Miles __"
6 Phoenician city
7 Org.
8 __-de-dah
9 Shorten
10 Come to pass
11 Moselle feeder
12 Writer Alther
13 "The __ lama, he's a priest..."
18 French black
19 Sports group
23 Tobacco ovens
24 Muck
25 Decathlete Johnson
26 Get all melodramatic
27 Removed rind
28 Walker or Black
29 Was nosy
30 Ballplayer Sal
31 Feeling of dread
33 Hidden supply
34 Stout and porter
36 Optional
37 Swaggerer
42 "Star __"
43 Fleming's spy
44 Something of value
45 Consumes supper
46 "Mask" star
47 Folk tales
48 Makes choices
49 Gloomy atmosphere
50 Bulge
51 Alain's friend
52 Drove too fast
54 Bakery buy
55 Leno or North

By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
7/9/02

Monday's Puzzle Solved

S	E	R	B		D	U	E	T	S		E	P	P	S
A	L	O	E		U	N	S	A	Y		V	O	L	E
R	A	B	B	I	T	E	A	R	S		E	R	I	E
I	N	S	O	L	E		U	N	T	E	S	T	E	D
			P	L	O	P		S	O	W		S	S	S
I	A	N		S	U	E	T		L	I	A	M		
C	L	O	D		S	T	E	V	E	N	S	O	N	S
E	A	S	E	S		I	R	E		G	S	U	I	T
D	I	E	L	E	C	T	R	I	C		E	T	U	I
		G	I	R	L		A	L	E	S		H	E	R
L	O	U		G	O	V		S	L	O	T			
A	C	A	D	E	M	I	A		L	O	R	D	E	D
B	A	R	A		P	R	I	V	A	T	E	E	Y	E
O	L	D	S		E	E	L	E	R		A	C	R	E
R	A	S	H		D	O	S	E	S		D	O	E	S

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7/9/02

My favorite natural healing remedies

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

IT HAS been said many times before and can never be overemphasized: The best treatment for disease is prevention.

Disease preventives:

Healthy eating. An eating lifestyle that has a good balance of carbohydrates, fiber and protein also means less fat, sugar and salt.

Regular exercise. A minimum of 45 minutes of exercise three times a week is required regimen in order to maintain a healthy heart.

Stress management. Meditation/reflection and prayer time—20 minutes a day—should keep you calm and in control.

Sleep and rest. Six to eight hours of quality sleep nightly (without the aid of drugs).

Fun and recreation. Taking yearly breaks from the heavy and demanding routine of day-to-day pressure at work ought to teach you to detach from worldly pressures.

S.O.S.

If your body often breaks down from exhaustion and illness, it is time to take a hard look at your lifestyle—is it healthy?

But why are people so obstinate, that they resort to natural remedies or alternative medicine when "all else fails"? Natural medicine begins where traditional medicine ends.

Favorite kitchen remedies

Listed below are some of my favorite healing preparations. It is good to be familiar with them, especially when you are caught unaware and unprepared. All you have to do is to go to your kitchen and, presto! There you have it!

I have chosen the most common ailments and their salves.

Stomach discomfort/indigestion

Commonly known as heartburn due to stomach acid going back up into the esophagus.

Causes: Over-eating, eating too fast, eating the wrong combination of foods, eating too close to bedtime, emotional stress.

Cory's brews. Here are mixtures that are almost magical:

Baking soda. In a cup of hot water, mix ¼ tsp baking soda. Sip slowly. After 10 minutes, you will realize your discomfort is gone. Note: Baking soda is high in sodium.

Ginger. Take ¼ tsp grated ginger and mix in a cup of hot water. Or boil ginger slices. Take as tea. This is especially great for stomach spasms.

Headaches

Causes: Muscular tension, food poisoning, indigestion, nutrient deficiency, menstrual problems, mental and emotional stress.

Foot soak. Soak feet in hot water for 1-2 minutes, alternating with cold water for 30 seconds. This draws congested blood from the head, relieving the headache pressure.

Celery tea. Chew two stalks of celery or grated celery stalks and dip in hot water. This ought to relax you.

Hoarseness/Laryngitis

Causes: An overuse of your vocal cords or an infection. Rest your voice if you have been singing, talking or shouting too much. Take 10 glasses tepid water daily. Avoid iced drinks.

Salt gargle. Add ¼ tsp salt in a cup of hot water. Gargle for 10 seconds then spit out the liquid. Repeat five times a day.

Constipation

Causes: Poor diet lacking in fiber, water, exercise and avoiding the "call" or urge to go to the toilet.

Improve your diet by adding more fiber and laxative foods like prunes, fruit, grains and water. Exercise by walking 10-20 minutes daily. If the situation is severe, try taking a laxative or have an enema.

Olive/castor oil rub. Warm both oils and rub across the abdomen. Lay a towel over your tummy and place a hot water bag. Keep still for 20 minutes. The oils help loosen encrusted matter and rebuild tissue. Repeat for two more nights.

Prunes soaked in 1 c hot water can be eaten and the prune water taken as tea.

Why go natural?

Choosing the best treatment for yourself is a personal decision. But I have found over the years that natural is best.

However, there are times when you should avoid unnecessary medicines and treatments—during pregnancy nursing and if you have allergies.

It is also wise to consult your physician always before adopting a natural remedy. In the pursuit of living a healthier, happier life, we should keep an open mind and heart. Love and light!

My beauty secrets are revealed daily in "Beauty In and Out" Monday-Friday, 8 a.m., on "Unang Hirit," GMA 7's early morning show.

Meet the author at her book signing tour: July 12: Power Books, Makati, 4 p.m.; National Book Store, Glorietta, 5 p.m.

July 13: National Book Store, Shangri-La, 3 p.m.; Power-Books, Megamall, 4:30 p.m.

E-mail the author at coryquirino_fy@yahoo.com

Global forum breaks boundaries of the mind

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

I FLEW to Bangkok last month to address hundreds of delegates to the Global Forum on Management Education. I was one of the plenary session speakers.

This forum, held once every five years, is "the largest, most comprehensive and most technologically sophisticated event of its kind." Its objective is "to advance the practice of management worldwide."

This was the first time the forum was held in Asia. Past venues were Montreal in 1989; Barcelona, 1993; and Chicago, 1998.

This year's forum consisted of some 800 university presidents and deans from over 70 countries. The event was opened by no less than Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand.

The roster of plenary session speakers during the conference included highly accomplished and internationally well-known personalities in government, business and education: Anand Panyarachun, former Prime Minister of Thailand, who also served as ambassador to Canada, Germany and the United States; Willy De Clercq, Belgian Minister of State and member of the European Parliament; Roberto de Ocampo, president of the Asian Institute of Management and former Philippine Secretary of Finance; Alan Richter, founder and president of QED Consulting in New York; Timothy Ong Teek Mong, executive chair of Asia Inc. magazine.

Former Philippine Labor Secretary Maria Nieves Confesor was the mistress of ceremonies. Working behind the scenes were Philip Alfonso, Ashok Nath and Brenda Sumberg.

STEPH BRAVO

Mind-boggling exercise

How did I get invited to be a speaker in such a prestigious forum of management educators? Well, maybe because of my track record as a lecturer on mind development. But also because the organizers wanted to inject something really new and innovative in the way people use their minds. And they heard of what I've been teaching the past 15 years.

The forum's theme this year was "Breaking Traditional Boundaries." The title of Plenary Session III where Alan Richter and I were the featured speakers was "Breaking Personal Boundaries: Some New Tools for the New Environment." Ours easily became the most talked about and highly appreciated presentations in the entire conference.

I guided the participants in a mind-boggling exercise in remote viewing (technically called "traveling clairvoyance"). This is something I teach in my Inner Mind Development and Basic ESP and Intuition Development seminars In the Philippines.

The technique is a modified version of the groundbreaking remote-viewing experiments conducted by scientists Russell Targ and Harold Puthoff at the Stanford Research Institute (now called SRI International) in Menlo Park, California, for 20 years. They proved that the ability to do remote viewing was a natural ability of the human mind given if certain simple rules were followed.

Projecting awareness

I asked forum participants to sit with somebody they hardly knew. After guiding them through a relaxation process, which brought their brain waves to the alpha level (about 7-14 cycles per second), I asked them to mentally project their awareness to their partner's house and describe that house in detail.

At the end of the session, about 40 percent or over 240 delegates said they had succeeded in describing the houses of their partners, which they had never seen before. That percentage was close to what I had expected would be my success rate.

I was happy, though it was the lowest percentage I ever recorded during my many years of teaching the technique all over the world, because I was working here against great odds.

First, the audience was the largest I ever addressed. There were about 700 who attended my session. Second, the sound system was muffled and I could not be easily understood. Third, I was given only 40 minutes to complete the presentation, though I needed 1½ hours to do it well.

Still skeptical

After the session, a number of delegates came over to congratulate me for a "wonderful" and "mind-opening" experience. One greatly perplexed American medical doctor, who did very well during the exercise, approached me to say, "I'm not leaving here until you explain to me how I did it."

Brenda Sumberg's husband, who was very skeptical about the whole exercise, came over to me and said he couldn't figure how he succeeded in getting correct and verifiable information concerning his partner's house. He said he was still skeptical but couldn't figure out how I managed to make him succeed in it.

This only shows how small a portion of our mind we are using. William James, the father of modern psychology, was quoted as saying that the average human being uses only about 10 percent of his mind. I think he was a bit too generous in his estimate.

What I can say is this: After that highly successful Global Forum on Management Education in Bangkok, the face and character of management education in the world will never be the same again!

E-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit website at http://j.licauco. tripod.com.

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Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

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Meet your MEDICard Team

Dr. Miguel C. Mendoza joined MEDICard's roster of medical providers in 1999 and is now based in the World Citi Medical Center (formerly QCMC). Dr. Mendoza finished Medicine and his residency training for his specialization in General Surgery at UERM-MMC. He took his training for his subspecialization in Minimally Invasive Laparoscopic Surgery in Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Doc Miguel is a Fellow to the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons, the Philippine College of Surgeons, the Philippine Society of General Surgeons and the Society of Laparo-Endoscopic Surgeons of America. As a surgeon, he believes that "surgery should be performed in the least invasive fashion through which accepted surgical goals can safely, efficiently and effectively be accomplished". You may visit him for your consultation needs at Room 202 of WCMC every Tuesdays from 2 to 6 PM.

MEDICard's Medical Coordinator at Cagayan de Oro Medical Center is **Dr. Francisco Lim Oh.** "Dr. Frank" finished Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas and took his residency training for his specialization in Internal Medicine at the New Jersey College of Medicine. He also subspecializes in Cardiology. Doc Frank is associated with the Philippine College of Physicians and the Philippine Heart Association. His hobbies include, listening to classical music, playing the violin, billiards and bowling. For your consultation needs, drop by the coordinator's office at Cagayan de Oro Medical Center, Brother St., Nacalaban Tiano from Mondays to Saturdays, 8 AM to 5 PM.

Dentist **Dr. Jortencia B. Palma** has been a MEDICard accredited provider since 1994. Dr. Jortencia, frequently addressed as "Doktora" by her clients has been in the practice of her profession for 19 years now. She is a graduate of Centro Escolar University and also specializes in Orthodontics. Doc Jortencia is a member of the Philippine Dental Association, the Makati Dental Association and the International Association of Orthodontics. You may visit her at her clinic for your dental healthcare needs from Mondays to Saturdays, 8 AM to 6 PM at Room 403 of the Medical Towers Bldg., Herrera cor. dela Rosa Sts., Legaspi Vill., Makati City.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

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ISO 9002

Handy listings of things medical, herbal and even causal

By Cathy Babao Guballa

IT'S 10 p.m. and your 7-year-old is running a fever. You page your pediatrician but she hasn't called back after an hour. Meanwhile, your daughter's temperature continues to rise. You take the paracetamol from the medicine chest but can't quite remember the exact dosage. What to do?

Check the label and grab a copy of the latest issue of Health Guide, a publication by Medimedia Asia that provides a listing of up-to-date information on 1,418 health products and services and a complete A-Z guide to various medical conditions and treatments.

The book is divided into four major categories, including a directory of drugstores, hospitals, counseling services, fitness centers and health stores and a glossary of common medical terms at the end. The categories are color-coded for the reader's easy reference.

The color purple

The purple part is a listing of various health topics, ranging from allergies, cancer and diabetes to incontinence, sinusitis and wrinkles. Each illness is further sub-divided into reader-friendly sub-headings that explain attendant symptoms, complications, common causes, what you can do, what your doctor can do, prevention tips, products available on the market—whew!

To illustrate: Indigestion has the sub-categories digestive problems, stomach cramps, stomach upset, etc. Stomach upset is described as "abdominal discomfort or distress associated with eating." Symptoms are cited and described in detail: Discomfort or mild to severe pain in the abdomen, heartburn (burning sensation in the upper part of the abdomen behind the breastbone), flatulence (feeling of fullness in the abdomen due to large amounts of gas), nausea, vomiting.

The book then goes on to cite possible common causes for indigestion—excessive alcohol intake, irregular meals, food poisoning, bacterial or viral infection, etc... Next comes "What you can do"—minimize intake of alcohol, greasy and spicy foods, improve eating habits, avoid stressful situations.

The next sub-heading is "What your doctor can do for you"—He/she can rule out serious underlying disorders by performing special tests or prescribe appropriate medicines. Prevention tips for indigestion include the following avoid alcohol, take regular meals, do not smoke, avoid medicines that bring on indigestion.

The last portion gives a listing of products available that is linked to the fourth part of the book, which is a comprehensive listing of practically all the health products available in the market. Also included in the Health Topics section are short how-to articles and pointers on how to nurse a cold, how to care for dry skin, exercises for diabetics, home remedies for sore throat, to cite a few.

More lists

In between the Health Topics portion and the Products Available are a brief section on first aid and an informative section on what is called Complementary Health. The latter lists all the herbs available here with their corresponding scientific name, common name, which part of the plant is used, what it contains, its traditional uses and what medicines you must avoid taking with a particular herb, plus a listing of special precautions.

For example, the book says that Echinacea, a popular herb, contains alkaloids, amides, carbohydrates, glycosides, polyenes and is traditionally used for chronic viral and bacterial infections, boils and abcesses. It is also used as a prophylactic for colds and influenza and stimulates the immune system. The ways in which it is used, as a tea or a capsule, is listed as well as special precautions—"allergic reactions may occur."

The Product Information portion describes the components of the medicine, its uses, special instructions for use, warnings and things to avoid while on medication. Practically, every non-prescription drug, cream, powder or ointment is listed in this ready reference guide. This is useful to have around the around the house especially when deciding which among the many over-the-counter medicines you should take. And if you choose to take the natural therapy route, there's a little bit of that in the book, too.

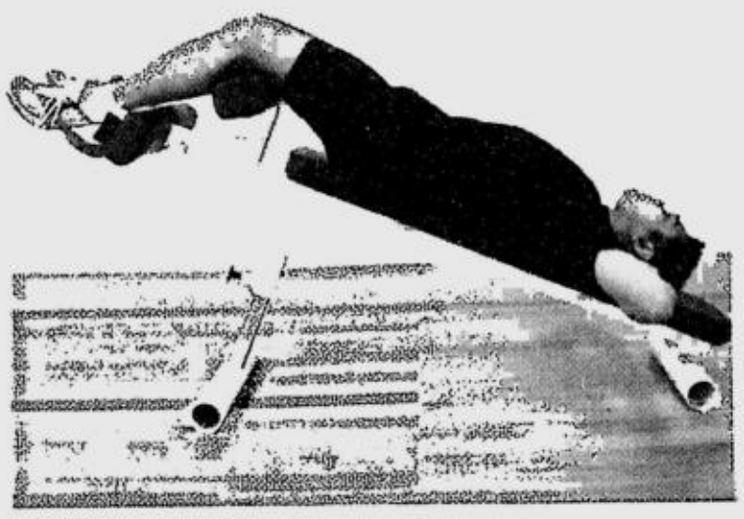
Priced at P400 a copy, Health Guide is more cost-effective than a call or visit to your neighborhood doctor, especially if the aches and pains are minor and you can nurse and heal yourself back to health at home.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Decline bench crunch

AN ADVANCED exercise to strengthen the abdominal muscles

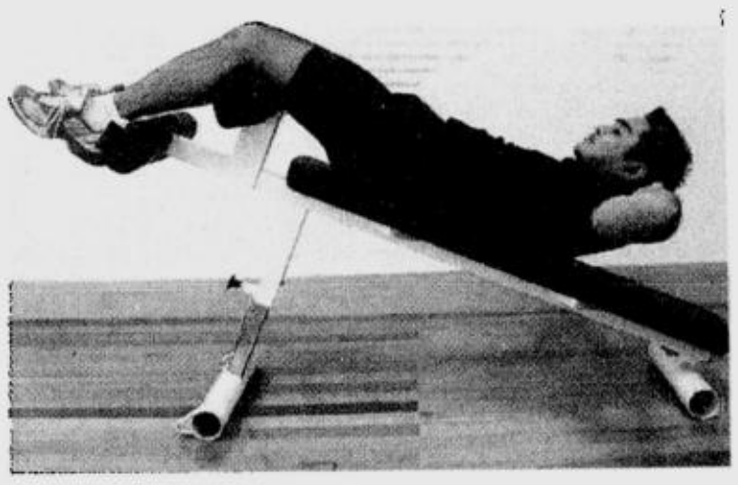


Equipment
Decline gym bench

Exercise technique
1. Lie on a decline gym bench with your head at the lower portion and your feet on top of the rollers.
2. Contract your abdominal muscles to curl your ribcage closer to your hipbones. Your head and shoulders should automatically follow.
3. Slowly lower your upper body down to the bench.

Performance tips
1. Use the contraction in the abdominal muscles to start the movement. Avoid jerking head and shoulders forward to gain momentum.
2. This is a small range of motion. Don't expect to curl very high.
3. Avoid this exercise if it bothers you to have your head lower than your body.
4. This exercise is traditionally done with the feet under the rollers and with a full sit-up. You will find that by trying this variation, you will have less involvement of the hip flexor muscles and more emphasis on the abs.

Repetitions
Twelve to fifteen repetitions. Rest. Do another one or two sets if you want to.



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Power of peer pressure

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

When friends decide to get fit together, they have a greater chance at being successful; the "buddy system" is a good motivational tool if you are new to fitness

WHEN I arrived in the US a few weeks ago, a friend told me she was so happy that she would spend the next two weeks with me because she knew that I would influence her to eat healthy.

She had gained five pounds because a couple of relatives had stayed in her house for a month. While she thoroughly enjoyed their company, their eating habits were totally different from hers. One relative would have a milkshake every day, and because the portion sizes in the US are so big, my friend would sometimes offer to share it with her. Before she knew it, she had consumed 10 milkshakes. Then, because the relatives had young children, they were constantly eating burgers and fries. My friend has been committed to a healthy lifestyle for many years now but even she weakened under all that peer pressure.

The sayings, "Tell me who your friends are and I'll tell you who you are" and "Birds of the same feather flock together" describe the very human condition of wanting to be like the people we are with. The need for approval and the need to belong are strong psychological urges that can make us become chameleons—transforming ourselves so we are part of the "group."

Choose your crowd

Don't think that peer pressure only happens to young children and teenagers. It affects adults, too. You may not realize it, but your friends can influence your health and fitness decisions more than you know. I'm not talking about friends whom you only see once in a while. I'm talking about friends that you hang out with on a weekly basis. My friend is not in any great danger because she only has to see those relatives once every couple of years.

If your friends are overweight and physically inactive, chances are high that you are, too. Of course, there are always exceptions but, most of the time, your lifestyle is similar to that of your close friends. This makes sense because you tend to do the same things together.

I know someone who married into a sports-minded family. Because her sisters-in-law became her good friends, she changed from a classic couch potato into a sports and fitness aficionado. I know other people who used to be health and fitness buffs until they hooked up with the "wrong" crowd. They weren't strong enough by their lonesome to stick with their healthy lifestyles. Some not only stopped exercising and eating right, but even took up alcohol and cigarettes.

When friends decide to get fit together, they have a greater chance at being successful. The "buddy system" is a good motivational tool if you are new to fitness. Not only does it make getting fit more fun, because you are doing it with a friend, but you encourage each other not to quit when the going gets tough. Unfortunately, there is also a down side to this. When one friend gives up, it usually isn't long before the other one abandons the newly acquired fitness lifestyle, too. The exception to this is if the remaining friend has made new friends in, for example, the gym or the tennis court. That's why it's good to get to know new people wherever you execute any fitness program you decide to take up. You never know when your original friend will leave you high and dry.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Guardian angels

I have seen the power of peer pressure at work among the students of the group exercise (aerobics) class that I teach. A few of them have taken it upon themselves to be the guardian angels of the class. They call up absent classmates, find out why they are playing hooky and encourage them to come back to class. Most of the time, the strategy works.

Your spouse or significant other plays an important role in whether you will be fit or not. After all, this special person is supposed to be your best friend. Thus, it is not unusual to see who have identical lifestyles. When you see exceptions, you can be sure that the fit partner has a strong support system of like-minded friends, and the unfit one has a bunch of out-of-shape pals.

Husbands and wives who are committed to a fit and healthy lifestyle are an example of the ultimate buddy system. Their influence on each other is powerful because living together means even their nutritional and health-related decisions are in synch.

Steps to take

Knowing how influential friends can be, we can take steps to keep the "good" peer pressure and avoid the "bad" kind.

If your friends have a quick weight loss mentality, educate them about the healthy and safe approach. If they don't wise up, be careful. They may eventually influence you to think the same way.

Nobody likes to go to the doctor alone. Encourage each other to take much-needed medical tests (depending on your age and gender group) like pap smears, bone density tests, prostate testing, colon screen testing and blood tests for cholesterol, triglyceride and glucose. Make it a fun activity by scheduling a lunch date after.

Be the "guardian angel" of your group and call your friends when they don't show up for exercise or sports.

If, because of job or school changes, you find yourself having to make new friends, choose wisely. Remember that you have to be a highly charismatic person to change a whole group of people. Most of the time, they will change you. This doesn't, of course, mean that you can't try to influence your new friends for the good, but just be aware of how powerful peer pressure can be.

If you want to change your lifestyle for the better, look for a like-minded friend and make a commitment to encourage each other.

Watch "In Fitness & In Health" on Studio 23 (Channel 42 on Destiny Cable), Monday to Friday, 6-6:30 a.m.

For past articles or exercises, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com.